



FAMILY CAR

Taking a ride in grandfather's motor



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IT'S A WRAP

Win tickets to the Festive Gift Fair



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Hundreds say no to scheme for waste

NEARLY 1,000 people have written to oppose plans for a waste recycling for energy plant in Brierley Hill.

A public consultation held by Dudley Council on Clean Power's proposal for the plant on land off Moor Street ended this week and the public's response is an overwhelming no to the scheme.

Opposition campaign group Say No To Waste site says it has submitted 894 letters of objection from residents to the council.

Other individuals and organisations, including Wordsley School (see page 2), have joined the list of objectors.

The proposal will now be looked at by officers, who give their recommendation for a decision to the council's planning committee.

Objectors fear the facility will give off odours and will create extra heavy vehicle traffic problems on surrounding roads.

The company has maintained there will be no odour from the site with their revised plan including air locks.

The proposal is for a waste plant to process around about 195,000 tons of domestic and commercial waste a year, creating energy for up to 10,000 homes and around 34 jobs.

Initial plans were refused by councillors last year.

Ready steady Beacon bake

SEDGLEY-BASED sight loss charity Beacon is launching its own bake off.

Bake4Beacon will be launched on November 3 at 2.30pm at the charity's Sedgley HQ with the aim of starting a network of fundraising bake sales.

To receive a Bake4Beacon fundraising pack, contact the fundraising team on 01902 880111 or email fundraising@beacon4blind.co.uk, or visit www.beacon4blind website.

REUNITED BY THE CHRONICLE

By Andrew Turton

A HEADTEACHER is making plans to tie the knot with her childhood sweetheart after an article in The Chronicle brought memories of their school days flooding back.

Jill Bennett and Cameron Craig were just seven when they became friends at the then Priory Infants and Junior School, Dudley.

They grew up just a stone's throw from each other and dated for 12 months as teenagers before their lives took different paths. Jill eventually became a teacher at her old school, working at Priory for 16 years, while Cameron worked in the drainage industry.

Fast forward 25 years and Jill was thrust into the role of acting head at Priory Primary School after it was placed into special measures following an Ofsted report.

She had only been deputy for 12 months when she took over and steered the school back onto the right track over the next two years. Ofsted inspectors rated the school as 'good' following a visit in June.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who knew the pair when youngsters, wrote about Jill's success for this newspaper and when Cameron spotted the piece he thought he would try to renew their friendship.

Whirlwind

Having not seen Jill for 25 years, he remembered she once lived on Meadow Road, Milking Bank. When he arrived at the door he found Jill's mother, Elsie, who put the pair in touch.

"Professionally and privately, over the past two years, my feet haven't touched the ground and it has been a bit of a whirlwind," said Jill, now full time headteacher.

The pair, both 48, dated at Dudley High, now Castle High School. Cameron went on to work in the drainage industry and is now at Tata Steel, Wednesfield.

Cameron said: "I happened to pick up the Dudley Chronicle one day and saw the article. I knew you from school and had been friends with Jill so obviously had written about her success. It was the school that brought us together again after all these years, so it is a special place."

The couple got together again 12 months ago. Both had been married before. Jill has two children, Alex, 21, a teacher, and 18-year-old Megan studying for a nursing degree at Birmingham University.

The couple are planning to marry on August 9 next year at Himley Hall. Mr Austin added: "It's fantastic. I remember them both from school. Cameron was a good mate of mine."



Reunited after 25 years - childhood sweethearts Cameron Craig and Jill Bennett

Reckless pet owners are given £50 fines

DOZENS of dog owners in Dudley are being slapped with £50 fines for failing to clean up after their pets with the majority of them caught in three parks.

Over the past two financial years, a total of 111 people were given penalties by Dudley Council.

Out of those caught failing to clean up, more than 10 were stopped at the Wrens Nest Nature Reserve, seven each at King George V Park in Wordsley and Buffery Park in Dudley.

Five were caught in Stevens Park, Quarry Bank, and Silver Jubilee Park, in Cosleay.

Dog wardens also handed out fines in Mary Stevens Park in Norton, Dudley Wood Recreation Ground in Netherton and Leasowes Park in Halesowen.

Wordsley Councillor Derrick Hemingsley launched a campaign against irresponsible pet owners failing to clear away dog mess in King George V Park.

He has called for extra patrols from dog wardens and for more dog waste bins.

He said: "We had a situation where the safety of users was being put into question by the amount of fouling in the park."

"It is a difficult issue which will never completely go away, but it has certainly improved over the past year at the park."

Bee haven is first for park

A 'BEE world' has been created in Dudley. Volunteers from Dudley and District Friends of the Earth have converted a 20-square-metre section of King George VI Park in Kingswinford.

They won permission from Dudley Council to turn the site into a wildflower haven that will provide food and shelter for bees. The project is part of a national campaign by Friends of the Earth to reverse a decline in many of the UK's bee population.

website www.wombourne-windows.co.uk

Wombourne Windows

For more information see page 10

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Borough's MPs back bombing raids

DUDLEY'S MPs have joined others in Parliament in voting to send war planes on bombing raids over Iraq in an effort to halt the advance of Islamic State.

Ian Austin, Labour MP for Dudley North, questioned why the Government was not prepared to target Syria as well, as terrorists could cross the border to escape.

Stourbridge Conservative Margot

James warned there was 'no doubt' that Islamic State, also known as ISIS and ISIL, would 'turn their sights on western targets' if allowed to succeed.

MPs voted by 524 to 43 — a majority of 481 — to endorse attacks on the militants in Iraq in support of a United States-led coalition. Labour backed the Government.

There was concern that the vote,

11 years after the invasion of Iraq, would put Britain into another long military campaign. But there was also criticism that targets in Syria were being excluded.

Mr Austin said: "I believe that we should have acted sooner to support those among the rebels who want democracy and human rights."

Miss James said: "We are dealing with a growing army of medieval

barbarians who have the most modern 21st century military equipment at their disposal. The methods are so barbaric, the manpower and financial resources are so substantial that other regional powers are not a match for them without western support."

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris and Dudley South MP Chris Kelly voted for air strikes.

Concern at speeds outside a school

MORE than 30 drivers have been caught speeding during the latest crackdown by campaigners in Wordsley.

One motorist was clocked almost 20 mph over the limit outside Belle Vue Primary School.

Residents are leading an awareness campaign alongside police to track speeds following safety concerns.

In total 32 motorists were caught over the 30 mph limit in Lawnswood Road during the one hour operation on Friday.

Around 12 drivers were found exceeding 40 mph and one was caught at 48 mph along the residential road.

Councillor Derrick Hemmingsley, who helped set up the campaign, said drivers will receive warning letters.

He said: "I'm concerned at some of the speeds we were finding, especially on a road directly outside a primary school."

"Everyone was really shocked at those speeds and the police will go back and look at the matter."

This was the latest speedwatch initiative in the area with similar activities having taken place at Bells Lane, Rangeways Road and Balmoral Road.

Other speedwatch events are planned in the future.

Other speedwatch events are planned in the future.

A RISE in drink-related deaths across Dudley has prompted health bosses to call for a minimum unit price for alcohol at shops in the borough.

Heath officials want a 50p minimum price to be introduced on a voluntary basis as council bosses work with businesses owners to combat alcohol misuse.

They claim alcohol is playing a role in violent crime, domestic violence and anti-social behaviour. But Government ministers have resisted calls to table new laws to legislate for a minimum price.

It comes as figures reveal 142 people have died across Dudley borough from alcohol-related health problems in the latest figures available between 2009 and 2011.

Head worried about waste plant scheme

A WASTE recycling plant would go against everything that has been done to improve Brierley Hill, a headteacher said as he lodged an objection to the scheme.

Michael Lambert, of Wordsley School, has spoken out against the proposal by Clean Power for a site converting waste into energy off Moor Street.

He fears increased traffic generated by the plant would put the safety of pupils at risk.

Mr Lambert, who has written to Dudley Council, said: "The local authority have done a smashing job in the area."

"Something like this would work against everything which has been done."

He added: "To think about the extra traffic to using the roads does concern me."

"I think it could have an adverse effect on the safety of pupils walking to and from school."

The letter comes as campaign group Say No to Waste site also submitted an objection to Dudley Council.

Clean Power has submitted new plans involving air locks to tackle concerns about odours.

Strategy

Over the same period approximately 2,090 people died of related conditions in the West Midlands and there were 15,918 estimated deaths in England.

Public health bosses in Dudley say the increase in the death rates has slowed to one per cent year-on-year and they have now drawn up a three year alcohol strategy. It was being unveiled at the Heath and Well Being Board meeting this week at St Thomas's Community Network, Dudley.

Valerie Little, who is director for public health in Dudley, says they were advocating a minimum pricing level as part of a measures to bring further reductions to the death rate.

In the report she said: "The real change that would make the biggest difference is to tackle the affordability and availability of cheap alcohol."

"Advocating for a 50p minimum unit price would deliver noticeable health gains for those that consume large amounts of cheap alcohol."

Festival is a cut above the rest



Canal enthusiasts Steve Bingham and Gavin Lawson enjoy a cuppa during the festival

THOUSANDS of people flocked to the banks of Dudley Canal for a biannual festival. Visitors to Parkhead Canal Festival sampled the sounds and smells of old-fashioned Black Country life across the two-day event this weekend.

There was also a special touch to the event this year as it celebrated 50 years of Dudley Canal Trust. More than 70 boats covered the water at Blowers Green Pump-house, while there was craft stalls and vintage cars and steam engines.

Steve Bingham, chair of the organising committee, said: "We've had thousands of visitors and thankfully we've had some lovely weather. The show has been a huge success overall."

One of the major attractions was a horse-drawn boat, while the Dudley Duck Race also brought smiles to faces.

Mr Bingham said: "People have been commenting that they have had a great day. We run this every two years and this is our seventh festival now."

A bewitching choice of show

BRIERLEY Hill Musical Theatre Company are staging their production of musical black comedy 'The Witches of Eastwick'.

Director Jez Luckins, of Stourbridge, said: "The show was originally released several years ago. It was then rewritten with new songs and this will be the regional premiere of that version."

It opens at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Wednesday, October 8 at 7.30pm. Tickets from £15, online at www.bhmte.co.uk or call 0845 658 8195. The show is not suitable for younger children.

Archive crafts

DUDLEY Archives and Local History Centre in Tipton Road hosts a craft fair on Saturday, October 18.

The free admission event, from 10am to 4pm, will feature a range of craft exhibits and demonstrations. Tours of the centre will be available on the day.

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Bungling burglar is spared jail term

A BUNGLING burglar who made so much noise that he woke the occupant has been spared jail. He had tried to gain access via a window space covered by two doors tied together with wire, a judge heard.

The occupant of the dwelling in Fletcher Street, Stourbridge, alerted police after being woken by what he thought was the sound of somebody on the roof.

Miss Heather Chamberlain, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "The bungalow was in something of a state of disrepair. One of the bedrooms did not have a window. This was covered by old doors secured together with wire."

Police called to the scene on June 29 found 28-year-old Kelvin Wakeman at the rear of the property. A welding machine, drill and floodlight taken from the bungalow were stacked outside. Wakeman's fingerprint was found on a door.

Mr Harbinder Lally, defending, said: "He knows he was stupid. All the stolen items were recovered."

Wakeman from Balds Lane, Lye, had seven previous convictions, none for burglary. He pleaded guilty to burglary and was given supervision for two years with drug rehabilitation.

Canal group history lesson

THE next meeting of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Society will be held on Monday, October 13.

It takes place at the Bradmore Community Centre, Birches Barn Road in Wolverhampton, from 7.30pm.

The speaker will be the historian Brian Draper, who will be giving a talk on The Warwickshire Avon.

Admission is free and all visitors are welcome.

For any further information call Chris Dyeche on 01384 375582 or email christopherdyeche@hotmail.com

Chip shop arrests

TWO men were arrested after a car smashed into a chip shop in Dudley following a police chase.

Power tools believed to have been thrown from the vehicle before the crash happened at Goodies in Tansey Green Road, Pensnett, have been recovered by police.

Region must build on industrial history – Duke



The Duke of York visits the Express & Star

THE Black Country is the 'bedrock' of British manufacturing and its expertise must never be forgotten, the Duke of York has declared.

Prince Andrew made the comments during a visit to our sister daily the Express & Star, where he backed the Ladder for the Black Country campaign drawn up to help thousands of youngsters get a job by creating apprenticeships.

He said it was a 'local solution' to a national youth unemployment problem and said the region should build on its proud industrial history.

"The Black Country has been at the centre of manufacturing right from the get-go of the industrial revolution," he said. "It has not lost that position – it has perhaps felt it is forgotten. But it must never forget it has been that bedrock and has that knowledge, has that experience, and it has that capability."

His Royal Highness is the patron of the Ladder for the Black Country campaign which is urging businesses to take on an apprentice and for young people to grab the opportunity of a paid work-based training scheme. The campaign got off to a flying

start, creating 100 jobs in just seven days. The Black Country has the worst rates of youth unemployment in the country.

Backed by the Duke the Express & Star has teamed up with the Vine Trust, a charity already helping to get young people into work, to create new apprenticeships.

Training provider Performance Through People (PTP), the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, and Ikea Wednesbury are also leading partners. Businesses and apprentices can call the Ladder for Black Country hotline on 0332409699 or go to ladderfortheblackcountry.co.uk

New education centre plan for old school site

A £1.2 million project to create an education and training centre on the site of a former school in Dudley has been unveiled.

Pensnett High School has been lying empty for four years. Now Dudley Council has revealed it wants to set up a learning base to provide education over 16s with learning disabilities.

A £1m grant has been secured towards the project, which includes demolishing former buildings on the site including the main school building that fronts Tiled House Lane and the linked science block.

The new centre which will be created by refurbishing one of the remaining buildings and will be run by Pens Meadow Special School.

Members of the council's cabinet were being asked to approve the project, including demolition work, at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday). A series of consultation events on the proposals will take place later this year.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services, said: "We have a great opportunity for some of our special needs children to lead a good quality of life post 16 close to their parents. It will also make use of an empty school site which is costing money to secure, which I am sure will be welcomed by the local community too."

The council has secured £1m from the Education Funding Agency for the work with a further £270,000 from the council. Ward councillor Judy Foster said: "I welcome the plans as it will mean the school is used again for a valuable purpose."

The high school closed in 2010 due to dwindling numbers after failing to hit education targets.

The three-year-old girl was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital where she arrived in a critical condition, while her grandmother was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital with a fractured leg.

The driver of the car, a man in his 70s, was voluntarily interviewed at the scene.

Richard Mason, head-teacher at Milking Bank Primary School, said: "We are extremely shocked and saddened by Monday's incident and all of our thoughts are with the young girl and her family."

Shocked

Girl, aged 3, in hospital after crash

A THREE-year-old girl is still being treated at hospital in Birmingham after suffering a head injury when a car ploughed through a fence at a school in Dudley.

Her grandmother was also taken to hospital after the car knocked down a large metal fence at Milking Bank Primary School in Aintree Way, Dudley, at 3.15pm on Monday of last week.

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Zoo buys British to keep animals well fed



Best of British produce — keeper Steph Sawyer hands out salad to the cheeky lemurs at Dudley Zoo

MORE than 1,300 animals live at Dudley Zoo, and that's a lot of hungry mouths to feed.

Although the exotic creatures come from all corners of the world, the food they eat is sourced from a lot closer to home. In fact, some is right on their doorstep.

The zoo's weekly food bill is around £2,300. Bosses always strive to get best value for money, which is why they buy British.

Fruit and vegetables come from

Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcester, cereals from Staffordshire and bamboo is grown on the zoo site at Castle Hill.

Harvest

Now it's harvest time the animals are celebrating British Food Fortnight by getting their teeth into a selection of seasonal food.

Staff have been distributing a wide range of autumnal foods including onions, carrots, potatoes, apples and

pears to the 200 species which make up the 1,300 animal at the attraction.

From cheeky meerkats to lofty giraffes, they are all able to enjoy the wide range of local produce.

"All of our animals enjoy a well-balanced diet that takes advantage of seasonal produce," said the zoo's head of media and communications, Jill Hitchman.

"We know how important it is to buy British, we've been doing it for the past 77 years."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Body is found in a Coseley flat

EMERGENCY services were called to a Coseley property after the body of a pensioner was found.

Police cars and an ambulance could be seen outside the flat near to McDonald's on Birmingham New Road at the weekend. The body of a man in his 70s was found but police are not treating the death as suspicious. It is believed he may have died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Inspector Phil Jones said: "The Health and Safety Executive have been informed but at this stage the death is not being treated as suspicious."

TV doctor in allergy warning

TV's Dr Hilary Jones was yesterday (Wednesday) due to visit Holly Hall Academy in Dudley, with Emma Wileman from the charity Haydn's Wish.

The visit is part of their campaign to alert children to the potential dangers of allergies. Ms Wileman's nine-year-old son Haydn died three years ago from a heart attack brought on by an allergic reaction to peanuts while eating his regular breakfast cereal, having developed an undiagnosed allergy.

Bake and books for MND charity

RAFFLE prizes ranging from theatre tickets to a free dog grooming session will feature in a Bake & Book Sale being held in aid of charity at Wall Heath later this month.

Alexandra Hill is organising the event in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, being held at St Andrew's United Reformed Church in Foundry Road on Saturday, October 18, from 11am.

Harvest festival fair and service

A HARVEST Festival will be held at St Francis Church on Saturday from 11am to 2pm.

The event at the church in Laurel Road, Dudley, will include stalls, tombolas, raffles and games, with refreshments available. Money raised will go to church funds. The following day the Harvest Festival service is at 11am.

Poet at the library

POET Liz Berry will be reading some of her work in Gornal Library this afternoon (Thursday). The Sedgley-born poet will be at the Abbey Road venue in Lower Gornal from 2.30pm.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



GREAT moments in catering. In a chic little cafe this week the waitress coughed over our table, apologised for coughing, coughed some more, took the order and returned with a pot of clotted cream topped with a thick black hair. She seemed surprised not to get a tip.

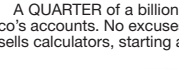
STILL on grub, is there any difference between that new restaurant phenomenon "pulled pork" and what we used to call grossly overcooked pork?

"FIXING the economy for everyone!" That was Ed Ball's war cry in his Conference speech. Well, he certainly fixed it last time, didn't he?

WHILE politicians of all parties blather about the problems of housing, education, transport and health, how many know in their hearts that there is only one problem? It is the one caused by successive governments allowing the population of this country to rise, in the space of a single lifetime, from 50 million to 70 million.

GOOD to see His Serene Eminence Milord Prescott popping up at Labour's Conference . You can always rely on Prezza to warn that the grapes of wrath are coming home to roost, so we must all keep our feet firmly on terra-cotta.

WOULDN'T you feel more like congratulating India on its space accounts. No excuses. A reader points out that Tesco sells calculators, starting at £5.50.



DURING the referendum campaign Alex Salmond was promising a Utopian Scotland full of freedom, equality and democracy. So you might imagine, when he resigned, that the choice of his successor would be a shining example of those three principles, with all SNP branches putting forward their best candidates for a fair and transparent election process. Dream on. The job appears to have been reserved for Salmond's deputy, Nicola Sturgeon. It's all sorted, lads. Nae need for a vote.

WONDERFUL to see Plebs (ITV2) back. The second series about three no-hopers in ancient Rome seems as sharp, rude and riotously funny as the first. But it is also more lavish with some expensive sets. So let me issue a soothsayer sort of warning: Beware the fate of Red Dwarf. When it first burst upon our screens in 1988, Red Dwarf was rough and ready with wobbly sets but it was original, fresh and funny. As the second and subsequent series came along, the sets and special effects improved but the comedy didn't.

FROM next week when you tax your car you won't get a paper tax disc. Instead, it will all be done digitally by the DVLA. You can either remove the existing tax disc from your vehicle or display it until it expires. So will you be binning yours? Me neither. As anyone who has watched those police documentaries knows, computer records are not perfect. It is not unknown for the cops to tow away a car for not being insured, even though it is fully covered. The tax disc is visible, tangible proof that we have paid our tax, so who in their right mind would throw away a valid one? Indeed, I wouldn't be surprised if some bright company starts producing private-enterprise documents with your DVLA reference number, details and receipt neatly printed on a small windscreen sticker. It could be circular. We could call it a tax disc.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Overdose kills 'life and soul of party'

A SHOP worker from Gornal died after spending a night drinking and taking drugs, a coroner has ruled.

Black Country senior coroner Robin Balmain said Richard Steven-ton, aged 29, who worked at Co-op Food Store in Diddale Road in Dud-le-y, died from a morphine overdose after spending a night at a friend's house, where he had been drinking wine and taking cocaine.

Mr Steven-ton, of Parkhouse Gar-dens, Gornal, had told a friend he was worried about being HIV pos-itive and was self-conscious about scars he had from previous self-harm.

Happy

But Gemma Bayliss said he was happy when the pair were talking in the early hours of March 31.

She said: "He had bought three bottles of wine and we had drunk those and another one during the night, but he only had two or three lines of cocaine."

"I went upstairs to look after my daughter because she was feeling ill."

"When I came downstairs, I no-ticed his eyes were glazed over and his skin was grey, and called an am-bulance straight away."

Miss Bayliss said she had mor-phine in her house due to her ar-thritis but no one knew where she kept it.

His sister Kerry-Ann Goodman said Mr Steven-ton enjoyed life and was always the life and soul of the party.

Mr Balmain ruled that Mr Ste-ven-ton had died from morphine toxicity.

Patients get help so meals are not wasted

DOZENS of volunteers have been recruited to help patients eat their meals at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

It comes as a wider range of meals are trialled on the wards as part of plans to revamp hospital food.

There are 73 'nutrition support' workers, who help to encourage patients to eat to help their recuperation and also assist them with their meals if they need a hand. They also help make drinks for patients and ensure they have drinking water.

Paula Clark, chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, said: "We have recently recruited 73 nutrition support volun-teers to help patients with their nutrition and hydra-tion needs."

"The volunteers pro-vide mealtime assistance by making drinks, helping with feeding, assisting with menu selection, encourag-ing eating and drinking and changing drinking water for patients."

"To make sure our pa-tients receive the very best care and support during their stay, nutrition support volunteers receive in-depth training provided by our nursing staff, dietitians and speech and language thera-pists."

Managers are also look at ways to improve the menu. There are also plans to in-troduce a more automated system of ensuring that patients and staff are re-war-ned about meals rather

By Heather Large

than relying on hand bells.

The mealtime assistant is offered for breakfast be-tween 7.30am and 9.30am for lunch between 11.30am and 1pm and then for dinner between 5pm and 6.30pm.

Ms Clark said: "We are also introducing a new cho-sen-by-patients menu."

"We asked patients which dishes they enjoyed on our current menu and what they would like to see of-fered in the future. Using this information our dieti-tians created a new menu that we are now trialling on three of our wards."

"Patients on our general surgery, respiratory and children's wards are given a choice of meals from our new menu at lunch and din-ner."

"We hope input from our patients will help us fine tune and create a final menu that can be rolled out to all wards across the hospital."

She added that the reac-tion of patients had been "overwhelmingly positive".

Healthy event for families

A FREE community event is being held to celebrate World Mental Health Day.

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust is organising the event at Priory Park in Dudley on Saturday, October 11.

The 'Be Happy, Be Healthy' event aims to promote the importance of looking after people's physical and mental health, and will offer free health checks, games and activities for the whole family.

The event will take place from 12 to 4pm at Priory Park in Dudley. For more details call (01384) 324531.

Sinead joins the Jersey Boys



The Jersey Boys and Halesowen actress Sinead Long coming to Birmingham

A STYLISH performance from the cast of Jersey Boys launched the Birmingham leg of the hit musical's UK tour.

The quartet playing Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons took to the stage at The Jam House to run through a medley of the band's 1960s and 70s hits.

Jersey Boys follows the story of the band from the mean streets of New Jersey to international fame.

The tour features local talent, including former Halesowen schoolgirl Sinead Long.

Now 24, Sinead, who went to Our Lady and St Kenelm Primary and Hagley RC High School, plays more than 10 roles in the show and is looking forward to being back home for the festive period as the show is at the city's New Alexandra Theatre from December 9 until January 4.

She said: "I am so lucky to have Chris-tmas and New Year at home, because one thing about touring is sometimes we don't feel like we have a base, so I am lucky to have a whole month with my family."

Searching for Santa of grotto on canal

AN ATTRACTION has launched a search for Santa. Dudley Canal Trust is looking for a jolly white-bearded candidate to take the seat of honour in its underground Christmas grotto.

The trust will be running its Santa special weekend boat trips into the Dudley Canal Tunnel and lime-stone mines in December and needs to find a Father Christmas for the December 7, 14 and 21 dates.

Joy

It is looking for someone happy to go underground and bring the joy of the festive season to families, handing over Christmas presents to youngsters.

Anyone who can help is invited to contact Nick Morris on 0121 557 6265.

The trust, which was formed in 1970, runs trips through the tunnels throughout the year but the Santa specials are particularly popular.

Tickets for the hour-long Santa specials cost £10.80 and include hot drinks and mince pies for parents.

The entertainment also includes Christmas carols. The trips run every half hour from 10am to 5pm.

See <http://dudleycanal-trust.org.uk/special-events/>

IT warning to hospitals

MP for Dudley North Ian Austin has urged hospital bosses to make sure their information technology li-censes are in order to avoid hefty fees.

Following the Govern-ment's decision to scrap a contract with Microsoft, individual NHS trusts will have to purchase and docu-ment software purchases.

Mr Austin said: "I'm really concerned that the hospital could be hit by fur-ther costs. As a result debts are mounting up at Rus-sells Hall, jobs are at risk and local people are facing longer waits at A&E."

Society booster

AN autumn fair is being held in aid of the Children's Society at a Sedgley venue.

The event on Saturday at Sedgley parish hall in Vicar Street will raise money for the society that fights child poverty and neglect. It is free admission and on from 11am to 2pm.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Consultation on £5m road scheme

A CONSULTATION has been launched over a £5 million project aimed at cutting tailbacks on Pennett High Street.

Dudley Council has drawn up plans to relieve congestion along the route passing Russells Hall Hospital.

The project would see two sets of traffic lights introduced at junctions with Tansey Green Road and High Oak, plus road widening and new pedestrian crossings.

The consultation period is set to run until October 17.

Cuddly toy sales boost zoo coffers

DUDLEY Zoo sold a record number of cuddly animal toys during the summer.

Sales during the six-week period topped £62,000 — a shop record for the attraction.

Retail manager Isobel Blackwell said: "During the six-week period we sold 8,727 soft toys taking over £10,000 a week on them alone, which is incredible. Cuddly toys have always been great sellers at Dudley Zoo as visitors like taking a reminder home of their favourite animal."

Business up for a major gym award

A LADIES' only gym has been shortlisted for a top industry award.

Unique Fitness 4 Ladies Only, at Castle Hill, Dudley, has been listed for the Ladies Only Gym Of The Year title at the National Fitness Awards in November, where it will vie with six other gyms for the title. Gym owner Raj Kaur said: "It is fantastic news to hear that we have been shortlisted."

Laughter with yoga sessions

PEOPLE can take part in laughter yoga sessions in Wordsley.

Maggie Thompson is leading the sessions which use a combination of deep breathing exercises and laughter.

The next session takes place on October 13 from 7pm at Wordsley Community Centre, at The Green, Wordsley.

Official opening

A CAFE at a Sedgley church will be officially opened on Saturday at 10am by Dudley Mayor Councillor Margaret Aston. The cafe at St Andrew's, Bilston Street, has been serving for a month.

Vote call on new plan for mosque

CALLS have been made for a local referendum over revised plans to build a mosque in Dudley.

Dudley Muslim Association has lodged new designs for the development earmarked for a site off Hall Street, as the community call for a modern building to replace the Castle Hill mosque.

It comes despite an on-going legal battle between the association and Dudley Council over the site, where the council has refused previous mosque plans.

Costs

Now a UKIP representative is asking the council to hold a referendum to make the final decision on the scheme.

Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge, also a UKIP Euro MP representing the West Midlands said: "The costs of the referendum, although significant, should be set against the legal costs already incurred and potential future action involving the council and taxpayers' money."

The latest submission has seen the overall size of the development reduced with a shorter minaret, so it will not be taller than nearby buildings.

Rubbish is cleaned away

DUDLEY Council workers have been out to clear up rubbish left strewn near a main road in Lye.

Councillors have urged people to report similar problems after residents demanded a clean-up of Clinic Drive, where the litter problem has escalated. Piles of rubbish had been dumped close to the High Street.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said the council was 'following up' leads in a bid to apprehend those responsible. Litter problems can be reported to Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

Walk after AGM

THE Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country is inviting nature lovers to take part in a guided woodland walk following its annual general meeting at Sandwell Park Farm, on October 26 at 2pm. The walk will take in woods in the Sandwell Valley.

Neighbouring councils in row over benefits

A COUNCIL boss in Sandwell has launched a stinging attack on Dudley Council for 'dumping' people in the neighbouring borough.

Finance chief Councillor Steve Eling hit out at Dudley after a High Court ruling that judged Sandwell's scheme to clamp down on 'benefits tourism' was illegal.

Now the 7,000 low-earning and unemployed residents in Sandwell do not currently pay council tax but face being made to pay 10 per cent of the bill.

Sandwell Council is considering the measure after the High Court ruled it could not withhold support from people who had lived in the borough for less than two years.

Sandwell Council implemented a two-year residency requirement on those wanting reductions to council tax bills, after Government cut council tax benefit. But the move was ruled to be illegal and discriminatory by a High Court judge and left Sandwell with a £40,000 legal bill.

Dudley Council had been temporarily

housing 10 vulnerable women in a hostel in Blackheath but was forced to pay £2,604.77 to Sandwell in council tax, as the women could not get a reduction due to the rule.

Councillor Eling said: "We have found cases of vulnerable people being dumped by London boroughs in our area without any kind of support but we do not expect it to be done by our neighbours."

"The court case was about three of these women who were placed in Sandwell by Dudley Council, and we forced Dudley to

pick up the bills. We asked Dudley Council to tell the court that we had required them to carry out their duties in relation to these women, including meeting costs. But they refused to tell the court what happened."

"Had Dudley Council told the court about this then the outcome of the case might have been very different."

Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks said: "In view of the importance of the judgement I have asked for a review of the procedure."

Free shoppers' parking in run up to Christmas

SHOPPERS will be given a festive boost with free car parking on weekends leading up to Christmas.

Councillors hope the move will encourage families into town centre over the festive season and help footfall for stores.

Both Dudley and Sandwell councils have revealed plans to suspend charges for motorists at council-run car parks in the boroughs.

Officials revealed that potentially thousands of pounds in revenue to the councils will be lost by the move.

But council leaders said that the move was an important gesture of goodwill to shoppers in the build up to the festive season.

Night

Dudley Council will continue its seasonal trend of suspending charges, which it first started in 1993.

The council plans to suspend parking charges on the December 6, 13 and 20 on all council controlled car parks.

Shoppers could also get a further bonus as the authority plan to suspend parking charges on one late shopping night in November or December too.

A report to transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "The suspension of car park charges is seen as a goodwill gesture on behalf of the council and an added incentive for shoppers to visit the borough on the run up to Christmas."

By Andrew Turton

Officials believe the suspension of charges could result in up to £26,000 of potential income being lost.

But they believe that losses will be reduced due to extra takings generated during the remainder of the week throughout the busy Christmas period resulting in a net shortfall nearer £13,000.

A final decision by the council is due soon.

Sandwell Council have revealed that it plans to allow free parking on off street car parks on the two Saturdays before Christmas.

Transport lead councillor Maria Crompton, said: "We will be having free parking on the two Saturdays before Christmas at off street council car parks."

"We hope this will encourage people to stay and shop in our town centres and help traders during the Christmas shopping period."

She added: "Parking in our car parks is already free on Sundays."

Fitness sessions launched

A PROGRAMME of fitness sessions at community venues across the Black Country has been launched.

They are taking place across Blackheath, Cradley Heath, Oldbury, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Tipton and Wednesbury, and include sessions in Zumba, aerobics, circuits, pilates and yoga.

For a list of classes, times and venues visit Sandwell Leisure Trust's the www.slt-leisure.co.uk website.



Olympic athlete Daniel Caines meets pupils at St. Edmund and St. John Primary School

Olympic runner inspires students

BE the best you can be — that was the message given to Dudley pupils as Olympian and world indoor 400m champion Daniel Caines visited their school.

The runner and three-time national champion visited St Edmund and St John Primary School on Beechwood Road last week to give a talk, before visiting each class to answer questions and sign autographs.

His visit was part of the 21st Century Legacy campaign which was set up after the 2012 London Games.

Daniel, who is from Solihull, and made his Olympic debut at the Sydney Games in 2000, told students: "I had always wanted to go to the Olympics but I never thought I was good enough."

"I had barely made the school team and had even finished fifth on sports day, which meant I didn't even make the relay team."

Despite taking up running at the age of nine, he did not even win a race until he was 16.

"Instead of getting frustrated I stopped and thought 'right, what can I do to change this?'" he said. "Then I started getting better and faster."

Daniel is also a European Gold and Bronze medallist.

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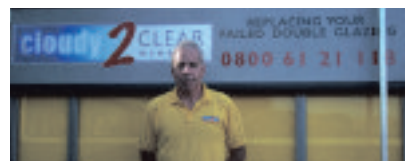
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

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area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

FOLLOWING the Scottish referendum and the promise of 'devo max' north of the border, there are calls now for greater devolution in England, with more power being given to the region.

Certainly, it sounds great in theory. After all, who wouldn't rather be governed by people who think and speak like them, rather than a remote metropolitan elite? A bit of Black Country commonsense would be the perfect counter-balance to the trendy London values we always seem to have imposed on us at the moment.

However, 40 years after Westminster trampled on centuries of history by forcing a new county on the people of this area – the little-lamented West Midlands County Council – we should all be sceptical about any plans for another regional assembly in this neck of the woods.

What would inevitably happen is that government apparatchiks will spend millions dreaming up some equally abstract 'city region' centred on Birmingham, where the London metropolitan elite will be replaced by a new, equally remote Birmingham metropolitan elite forcing its own equally bizarre ideas on us all.

Meanwhile, our great historic towns and cities will be reduced to the role of suburbs to the great Brummie metropolis.

As a true Black Country mon, it has been galling to see the way local and central government functionaries have taken it upon themselves to redefine our area along the lines of four local authority boundaries, which themselves were dreamt up in 1974. More regional government will surely only mean more of the same.

If we are serious about devolution in Britain, how about the ruling classes stop trying to define our identities for us? And instead of horse trading among local authorities, why don't our local authorities stick to solely representing the areas they serve? Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and West Brom are, each, in their own right, some of the biggest towns in Britain. Real devolution would surely mean giving them the confidence to stand on their own two feet.

And while they're at it, they could make a start by restoring their status within the traditional ceremonial counties of Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

CELEBRITY benefit claimant Josie Cunningham has hit out at the father of her new-born baby. According to the would-be glamour model and former prostitute, she was duped by the man who told her he was footballer Curtis Davies, but actually turned out to be an imposter.

She thinks she was duped? She ought to try being an Aston Villa fan. We paid Albion £10 million for a man claiming to be Curtis Davies. And he couldn't play football either.



Eve Billingham and her son, Arthur



Nigel's grandmother Mary Priest



Nigel's mother Iris Brazier, in 1964



Nigel as a younger man, with faggots

Have our faggots met their maker?

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT looks at the potential demise of a traditional Black Country foodstuff

HAVE we seen the last of the proper Black Country faggot?

When Nigel Brazier's family-run shop shut after 125 years he took the recipe for good 'old-fashioned pork faggots with him.

Now the 64-year-old has found a buyer for The Cook Shop in Old Hill – and it will be nothing whatsoever to do with food.

Mr Brazier, who closed the Halesowen Road business and put it up for sale for £120,000 because he wanted to retire, is writing a book about his shop's history and pledges to include a recipe with every chapter, including for his faggots.

And these were good faggots too, Mr Brazier says. There were people queuing up for them on the final Saturday before his shop closed.

"I think we were the last of the cook shops selling faggots in the Black Country," he says.

To be absolutely clear, Mr Brazier is not suggesting his shop was the last in the Black Country to make faggots.

Plenty of butchers and others make them too. The Cook Shop, however, sold other groceries. People would get their soup and their sugar along with their meat.

Even so, he thinks the art of proper faggot making is dying out.

"You sometimes see chefs come up with new recipes and they're putting all sorts of things in them – garlic, half a dozen herbs, red wine.

"These recipes date back to the 1800s. Black Country housewives didn't have red wine to pour into their faggots. If they had it, they'd drink it.

"The faggot is a way of using other bits of pig you couldn't put anywhere



Last days – Nigel Brazier with senior sales assistant Diane Cooper

else. You could use everything from a pig bar its squeal."

The recipes in his book have been written for decades. What the public will have to wait for is the story of The Cook Shop and the generations who got it through the First and Second World Wars.

Mr Brazier has been in the shop his whole life. He helped his mother Iris out when he was a boy, during the

school holidays, and then took over in 1965.

It was started by his great grandmother, Eve Billingham, in 1889 using the front room of her home in Old Hill High Street. She sold the Black Country food she cooked herself.

The business was passed down to her daughter Mary and husband Joe Priest before it was given to Iris and Bill Brazier and finally to Nigel.

He will now enjoy retirement with wife Anne. Their four sons have all found careers of their own and live in Exeter, Sheffield, Lancaster and the Lake District.

So the recipes will have to be something people use at home instead of buying from The Cook Shop.

"When it comes to the recipes, 'simple' should be tattooed over the heart," says Mr Brazier.

"If you put anything other than simple ingredients in a faggot it might taste good but it ceases to be a Black Country faggot."

"It's the same when it comes to Black Country bread pudding."

Mystery surrounds the identity of the person buying The Cook Shop.

"It will be an entirely different business," says Mr Brazier, from Clent, near Stourbridge. "It's nothing to do with food. The buyer wants it kept under wraps."

Challenge

And it could be another 12 months before the book is written and released so people can have a go at making the faggots for themselves. There is what sounds like a challenge to other faggot makers to prove they can keep the proper Black Country faggots going.

"When we closed we served 300 to 400 people on the Saturday mornings," Mr Brazier says.

"I don't think there's anyone else out there doing what we did.

"Black Country food is simple. That's its secret and that's its beauty.

"It's in the way the ingredients are all brought together.

"We closed a successful business.

"The reason we survived so long was we created a niche market for ourselves.

"No-one, or at least very few others, did it like we did.

"People wanted to come here."

"Who makes the best Black Country faggots? Email newsdesk@expressandstar.co.uk or call 01902 319410.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THEY say politics is show business for ugly people. Cruel and uncalled for as that may be, if there's a sliver of truth in it then the party conference season must be the equivalent of the V Festival.

It's Birmingham's turn to host the Tories again with the promise of a £17 million boost for the economy as a result. This, if anything, is the big one.

Here's the senior party in Government, rallying its troops en masse for the final big autumn gathering before the General Election.

"Go back to your constituencies and prepare for government," said no-one who ever actually made it in to government (it was David Steel in 1981).

So the conference needs to be a carefully worded plea to the electorate as well as a way to unite the party.

Ed Miliband's speech to the Labour conference in Manchester was certainly not his finest hour. Forgetting to mention the deficit and immigration – two of the reasons voters turned against the party in 2010 – was a serious gaffe.

Labour may be ahead in the opinion polls but typically that gap narrows the closer we get to General Elections as voters opt for the status quo.

None of this gives David Cameron room for complacency. He faces the fight of his life to stay in power and the West Midlands is going to be essential.

Labour seats in the Black Country and Staffordshire fell to the Tories in 2010 but the political map looks very different today. For a start, Cannock Chase and Dudley South will both get a new MP regardless of who wins. Aidan Burley and Chris Kelly, two of the 2010 intake, are standing down.

Their replacements as candidates do not have the benefit of incumbency. Nor will they have had much time to get to know their constituencies.

Then there is the 'grass roots' support. When Mr Cameron came to power, three out of the four Black Country councils were controlled by the Tories.

Now they're all Labour again. And in Sandwell there is just a single Conservative councillor.

Don't forget Ukip either. In Cannock Chase, the Tories are third behind them.

In opposition in councils, the Tories don't have a record to stand by, for better or worse.

Labour, however, is making cuts it says go against the very reason many of its councillors went into public service but get to blame everything on the Government.

There will be pledges, promises and policies that come out of Tory party conference, all of which will be aimed at getting us to see the Conservatives as safe pairs of hands. The one they'll want us to remember may as well be borrowed from Bill Clinton's campaign: "It's the economy, stupid."

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Referendum to decide mosque issue

THERE is a new proposal from Dudley Muslim Association with a new design for development at the Hall Street site in Dudley.

This issue has been dragging on for many years now with hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of taxpayers' money spent on legal battles. More importantly the issue has created social division and ill feeling, passions still run high. The politicians have failed miserably to deal with this matter and it is time for a new approach.

UKIP policy is for controversial local planning issues to go to a referendum. Local residents should have their say.

The costs of such a referendum would be as nothing compared to the money already spent on legal battles and potential future expense. This would draw a line under the matter and stop any more lawyers filling their wallets at the expense of Dudley taxpayers.

The political parties and Dudley Muslim Association should sign up to an agreement to abide by the will of the people.

I personally believe that the status quo is unacceptable and the present Dudley Mosque is not fit for purpose. However, how the situation changes should be decided by the people of Dudley. If they vote against the Hall Street development it should be an end to the matter and more acceptable solutions looked into.

Let us lead the way in Dudley through a referendum which, I believe, would be the first of its kind in the UK. Let the people decide.

**BILL ETHERIDGE MEP
Sedgley**

Police cuts yet crime going down

IT has finally come out.

Home Secretary Theresa May and this coalition government have with their austerity cuts lost 16,000 police officers in four years — and she has the audacity to say crime is down.

It's down because the cash-strapped police are no longer attending to break-ins, burglary and car thefts.

Is this the security that the coalition government are now offering to the victims of these crimes?

What has this country come to with regards to people's security?

This surely is going to mean vigilante groups starting up. It is going to be absolutely catastrophic.

I say roll on next May when the people of this country can vote with their feet.

We have surely had enough of this coalition government.

**B WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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expressandstar.co.uk

Devolving power is easier said than done

FOLLOWING the result of Scotland's referendum, the relief on Mr Cameron's face was plain for all to see.

Striding out with confidence and cross-party support he announced a complete overhaul of the constitution not only in Scotland, but also in England. He proudly proclaimed his intentions for devolving power to the regions in England.

What a marvellous new idea, but is it really new?

Rewind to 1966. The Labour Government introduced semi-autonomous metropolitan regional councils to oversee common services such as health, education, highways, police, fire brigades, waste management, etc.

The metropolitan regions were abolished by the Thatcher government during the 1980s. The official reason was that regional councils were a costly and unnecessary layer of government. I believe that they were abolished because most of them returned Labour control in elections. With Maggie being the megalomaniac she was, she couldn't accept any form of socialism, democratic or not. I wonder how permanent Mr Cameron's attempts will be if those elected also oppose his views?

**M CLIFF
Wall Heath**

Don't get silly about smokers

I WRITE in the response to the rather silly, sanctimonious letter from N Wilkinson saying that employers should sack all employees who smoke.

She states that she and her husband have never smoked. Bully for her.

Who cares?

And as she gives their ages as 30 and 25 it should come as no great surprise that her five children do not waste their money on smoking.

As for comments about people smoking outside of their work premises who is she to say what they should and should not do on their rest breaks?

So who is next to be sacked?

Women wearing gallons of cheap perfume?
Cheese and onion crisp eaters?

**TIM SCOTT
Amblecote**



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Graeme French and his son Timothy from Adelaide in the Bean 14 motorcar



Graeme French from Adelaide at the wheel of the Bean 14



Where it all began — the family snap of the Woodalls their car on holiday in 1925

Family's 10,000-mile trip for a reunion with a 1920s motorcar

IT'S a treasured family photograph — a family of four enjoying a holiday in Wales in their shiny new convertible classic car.

And the snap, from the 1920s, has led one family to make a 10,000-mile journey from their home in Australia to see that very same car almost nearly 100 years later.

The classic Bean 14 belonged to the grandfather of Graeme French, aged 77, who last week travelled from Adelaide with his son Timothy to the Black Country Living Museum, which became the car's home in the 1970s when it was restored.

The black and white picture of the car, which would have been made in one of Bean's factories in Dudley and Coseley, shows a relaxed-looking Thomas Woodall, then managing director of an iron and steel works, reading a newspaper. He is with his son Wilfred, in the driver's seat, his other son Eric and daughter Winifred, who sit behind him looking at the photographer.

MEMORY LANE

By Alex Ross

Winifred was Mr French's mother and the photograph was passed on to him, but he never expected to see that fancy car again, let alone take a ride in it.

Restoration

Mr French was born in Australia after his mother emigrated in 1929.

He received a newspaper cutting at his Australian home in the 1970s showing a story about the restoration of the Bean 14 his grandfather purchased for £395 in about 1924.

Mr French, a retired financial advisor, then organised to see the car at its new home at the Black Country Living Museum during a visit to the country in the 1990s.

Last week he returned with his son Timothy to take another look at the vehicle and to take it on a ride around the museum

grounds. Holding the old family picture of the car, he said: "It's a real beauty, isn't it?"

"It has been wonderful for me to find my grandfather's car. It had always been a vehicle I'd look at through the picture and admired, but never thought I'd see it and go in it myself."

He believes the photograph was taken in the north Wales seaside resort of Rhyl and is thought to be about a year after his grandfather purchased the car.

Bean Cars brought out the Bean 14 model in 1923, making about 4,000 up to 1929. There is thought to only be about 200 to 300 in working order today.

The number 14 reflected the horsepower of the engine, which was used to tax the car, with £1 a year for each horsepower value.

The car has four gears and drives at about 45 mph comfortably. It has black leather seats.

Mr French said: "When my grandfather purchased the car he was living in Stanmore Road in Edgbaston — there were only two other cars in the road at the time, so

it was quite a sight for the neighbours and the family remembered it well. But with my grandfather's ill health I think it then got left in a lock-up garage and then under my grandmother's ownership was lost.

"I'd often see the picture of the car when growing up and marvel at it, but never did I think I would see it, until aunt sent me an article cutting about the same car being restored. I could not believe it.

"The story was about the car being found and so when I came next to England in the 1990s I made a point of seeing it. Seeing it working was amazing — it completed the picture for me and felt special getting inside it."

Mr French's son, Timothy, 45, a chartered accountant, said: "It's a fabulous car which is special to our family."

Bean cars were manufactured between 1919 and 1929, in the early 1920s they out-sold Austin and Morris vehicles. But the success was short-lived, when one design was released with faults, it led to a drop in sales and car production ceased in 1929.



Bean Cars office staff at their Dudley headquarters

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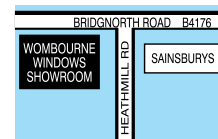
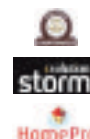
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When your bags are full, drop them off at the Present Crèche and continue to shop, stop for a bite to eat and enjoy the atmosphere created by bands,

choirs and entertainers. And you could be there for free as the Chronicle series has teamed up with the organisers with 90 pairs of tickets up for grabs.

Here is what you will have to look forward to – personalised gifts, Christmas baubles complete with messages for everyone – including the dog, keepsakes and exquisite jointed collector's bears.

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There are plenty of gift ideas for the man, woman or little ones in your life and of course stocking fillers and you can stock up on cards and decorations.

For more information and ticket details go to www.festivegiftfair.co.uk



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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices, believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today. He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 20 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having been recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

"We offer A-rated energy-efficient windows and doors which can help save up to £250 from heating bills in the first year alone. They not only reflect heat back into the house, but also retain heat from solar gain," remarks Nathan.

"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for "advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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Battle of Britain air heroes remembered

IT was, as Winston Churchill proclaimed, 'our finest hour'.

All ages from war veterans to young cadets took part in parades in Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge and Dudley town centre last Sunday to mark the Battle of Britain.

They were paying their respects to those who lost their lives during the nearly four-month long campaign to defend the country against the German air force.

British airmen were joined by other nationalities including Polish, Czech, Belgian and Commonwealth pilots in the battle which raged in the sky over southern Britain from July to the end of October 1940.

A total of 544 RAF pilots and aircrew died with hundreds wounded.

Pilot Officer Tim Parkes, officer commander for the 451 Stourbridge Air Training Corps, took his squadron to pay tribute to those who lost their lives at the event in Stourbridge.

He said: "We take part every year because it's an important event for our organisation. The Air Training Corps was founded at a time when there was a shortage of pilots in the run up to the Battle of Britain. So for us it's very important."

There was a marching band in the park and a wreath laying ceremony took place.

The squadron is expecting to take on the organising of the event next year when the RAF Association is expected to step down from the role.

In Dudley Air Training Corps, cadets took part in a parade from Priory Road, through the town centre to St Thomas and St Luke's Church.

A civic service of remembrance was held at the church, led by the Rev Canon Judith Oliver, attended by civic guests, veterans and members of the public.

After the service the parade made its way back to Priory Road where



War veterans took part in the annual Battle of Britain parades held in Dudley



Young and old showed their respect for the dead at a remembrance service

Commander Jon Milsom from RAF Cosford, alongside Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston, took the salute on the steps of the council house.

Council leader David Sparks, cabinet member for transport Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, chairman of South Staffordshire Council Councillor, Janet Johnson Chief Superintendent

for Dudley Chris Johnson were among those who attended along with Sandwell deputy mayor Councillor Shirley Hosell and Walsall deputy mayor Councillor Angela Underhill.

Councillor Aston said: "I'm so pleased that so many people turned out to take part in the proceedings and help mark this very important occasion."



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Pub is home for Holmes as TV presenter drops by

TELEVISION presenter Eamonn Holmes made a special trip to sample a pint of good old Black Country ale during a visit to meet friends from a brewery.

The journalist, who works at Sky News and ITV's This Morning, arrived to enjoy lunch and a tippale at Sadler's Brewery, which is based in Lye, Stourbridge.

Staff at the brewery, which runs the neighbouring Windsor Castle Inn, off Stourbridge Road, have met the star at events over the years.

And when he said he had some free time after finishing presenting the breakfast programme on Sky on Monday they invited him up to the Black Country.

Mr Holmes spent four hours chatting to staff and customers at the pub, including managing director Chris Sadler.

All this was while enjoying his favourite drink, Sadler's Peaky Blinder ale, named in honour of the Birmingham gang that inspired the hit BBC TV series.

He also looked through the brewery's plans to expand into new premises in the town.

Supporter

Sadler's sales director, Ian King, who is friends with Holmes, said: "It was great that he could come up to see us and he has been a long time supporter of the brewery."

"He was great and was happy to chat to staff and the customers. A few of the customers were shocked to see him in the pub while they were having their lunch."

"He came straight up after presenting on Sky at 9.30am."



Eamonn Holmes at the Windsor Castle pub in Stourbridge Road, Lye, to sample his favourite beer

Volunteers needed to help the vulnerable

AN APPEAL has been launched for volunteers to join a new service offering support to vulnerable people in the Black Country.

The aim of the befriending service, which has been developed by Dudley Council's housing support team, is to provide one to one and group assistance to housing tenants who are lonely, isolated or facing a difficult time.

The scheme intends to help people gain a more positive outlook by becoming more involved in society. Whenever possible, a befriender is matched with someone with the same interests.

Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "This service will provide a vital role in today's society as many people feel isolated and in need of a helping hand. We have housing support officers who identify those tenants who are in need of this assistance and match them with an appropriate volunteer. The ultimate aim is for individuals to enjoy a better quality of life."

Anyone interested in volunteering for the service should call 07827 873394 or email stayconnected@dudley.gov.uk

Councils in united bid to take over rail service

COUNCILS in the West Midlands have asked the Government to give them control of rail services, including the ability to set fares.

Fourteen authorities, including the four Black Country boroughs and Birmingham, have set up a consortium called West Midlands Rail, which they want to be the public body responsible for train services once rail company London Midland's franchise ends in 2017.

The councils met at Stafford's County Buildings to sign a proposition that is now being sent to Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin.

They also say it will help them get the most out of the £50 billion high speed rail line HS2.

Jobs

The authorities believe devolving powers from central Government to the West Midlands would create a better railway for passengers and bring more jobs.

The councils say having more responsibility for the franchise to run services through the West Midlands would help them lay down minimum standards of service, including punctuality and reliability and hold the train operator to account.

They would also be able to set fares, manage stations and have a say on security and car parking.

Councils were powerless in the final months last year when London Midland cancelled hundreds of services because of a shortage of drivers.

The company ranked seventh in the country for cancellations, scrapping 14,368 throughout the whole 2013/14 and has come under fire for reducing opening hours at ticket offices.

By Daniel Wainwright

The councils involved are Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Staffordshire, Birmingham, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Worcestershire, Coventry, Solihull, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Northamptonshire.

The submission follows an approach by the Department for Transport which asked English regions for thoughts on taking over the commissioning and management of local rail services.

Councillor Roger Lawrence, leader of Wolverhampton City Council and chairman of West Midlands Rail, said: "The submission of this proposition is a major step towards securing local management and ultimately delivering better rail services focussed on the real needs of West Midlands passengers."

Only two areas of the UK currently have locally managed rail networks — London and Merseyside.

Housing system is under the spotlight

A REVIEW of Dudley Council's housing services is taking place with housing tenants and leaseholders being asked to take part in a consultation.

The council will look at improvements which could be made to the housing services department.

Among the moves already introduced are home checks, carried out regularly by housing managers and increased involvement by tenants groups.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge, said: "It is important we know how our customers feel about the service provided by housing. We want to know what we are doing well, or poorly, where we are particularly productive and how we can make improvements. I would encourage tenants to complete our online questionnaire, attend any of our events or join one of our customer focus groups."

For more information call Cheryl Scriven on 0300 555 2345 or email Cheryl.scriven@dudley.gov.uk.

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Keep busy to live a long life says Florence, age 105

HER ambition was to reach 100 but great-grandmother Florence Jeffries has beaten her target by five years.

The great-grandmother turned 105 last week and celebrated with her friends and family at The Cherries Residential Home in Wall Heath.

Her son, Bryan, said the secret to her longevity was that she had never smoked and rarely drank alcohol but would treat herself to a tipple to celebrate.

Husband

Born in Wolverhampton, Mrs Jeffries attended Woden Road School until she was 14. She helped her father deliver bread at his bakery until she joined Eveready Battery Company, in Park Lane, and worked as a battery maker.

She had met her husband, Fred,

before the Second World War but he spent the majority of the conflict in India. The pair married when he returned in 1946 and had two sons, Bryan, 64 and David, 63.

Mrs Jeffries has two grandchildren, Louise, 40, and Sarah, 37, and one great-grandchild, Sophie, who is seven.

Mr Jeffries said his mother kept fit by keeping herself busy.

He said: "She's quite frail now. She lived on her own until she was 97, she only moved here in 2008. Unfortunately she broke her hip and she doesn't get out much any more but she really enjoys living here."

The owner of the residential home has a vintage car and took Mrs Jeffries out in it for a ride.

Mrs Jeffries had two sisters, Alice and Mel, who both lived well into their 80s.



Florence Jeffries celebrates her 105th birthday with her son, Bryan, and daughter-in-law, Shirley

More than 1,000 use Help to Buy

MORE than 1,000 people across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Wyre Forest have bought home through the Help to Buy scheme.

Wolverhampton had the largest number of people put down a deposit of as little as five per cent on the price of their home, receiving loans from the taxpayer of up to 20 per cent of the purchase cost.

The city saw 206 people take out an equity loan between April 2013 and the end of August 2014.

In Sandwell it was 195 and in Dudley it was 183.

There were 157 people who used Help to Buy loans in Walsall and 147 in Cannock Chase.

In Lichfield it was 88 and in Wyre Forest it was 69. Stafford saw 54 loans and South Staffordshire had 19.

Almost 53,000 households have bought a home in England through Help to Buy, according to housing and planning minister Brandon Lewis.

Nearly 80 per cent of sales have gone to first time buyers, with almost 70 per cent being for new build homes.

Mr Lewis said it had prompted the sharpest increase in private housebuilding starts for 40 years.

Man died six weeks after his suicide bid

A FORMER miner died after suffering complications after he shot himself in a suicide attempt, an inquest heard.

Donald Jones had a metal plate in his face after shooting himself with a shotgun at his home in Gornal, on April 9, over fears he was falling ill.

The following month, the 80-year-old attended Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital with severe haemorrhaging

behind the plate, and later went into cardiac arrest.

After several attempts to resuscitate him, he was pronounced dead on May 23.

Kelvin Jones, Mr Jones' son, said his father had an appointment at the hospital the day after he shot himself.

His son said: "He thought there was something the matter with him because he had been passing blood.

By Jon Pritchard

port of someone in the street covered in blood.

"It became evident that he had shot himself. He was completely conscious and we had to keep him upright to stop the blood from blocking his airway.

"I did ask him what had happened and he said he had tried to end it all."

The inquest heard that Mr Jones, of Roberts Green Road, was a keen sportsman who enjoyed game shooting, but had not officially owned a gun since 2007.

DC Simon Pittaway said: "We found a single-barrelled Harrington and Richardson shotgun. There was blood in the sitting room where he had been treated, and also a lot of blood on the bottom two steps of the stairs, where I believe he had shot himself."

Robin Balmain, senior coroner for the Black Country, said: "This is very sad. I am satisfied there was no third party involved and Mr Jones shot himself."

He ruled that Mr Jones died from a cardiac arrest due to severe haemorrhaging due to a gunshot injury.

Searching for new hospital governors

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to find new hospital governors. Members of the public and staff are being invited to stand for election for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's Council of Governors.

Governors aim to provide a link between the hospital trust and the communities who use its services.

There are vacancies Central Dudley, Brierley Hill, Halesowen, North Dudley, South Staffordshire and Wyre Forest, Tipton and Rowley Regis.

An information sessions will take place on Thursday, October 9, from 6 to 7.30pm in the Clinical Education Centre at Russells Hall Hospital. These will give more details about the nomination process and the role of a governor.

The elections close at noon on October 17. To find out more or to request a nomination form, contact Helen Board on 01384 321124, email foundationmembers@dgh.nhs.uk or visit the www.dudleygroup.nhs.uk website.

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Val chalks up win in art contest

Pelsall E TG

AN astounding display of art and craft items greeted members on their arrival at the meeting on September 18, all made at and by The Craft Patch at Swan Works, Pelsall Road, Brownhills.

Kerry Middleton gave an interesting overview of all the items, from a large Decopatch giraffe to small felt teddy bears, explaining how they were made and what courses were available at their Craft Patch workshop. Several members experimented with Decopatch, a system of tissue paper patches glued to paper mache shapes and glazed to look like ceramics.

Val Chalker won the art & craft competition with a display of hand-knitted cup cakes, and the monthly raffle was won by Ann Salt.

The walking group has been extending the range of their walks and have enjoyed Lichfield and Chase-water as well as the local footpaths/canal towpaths. The Health Sculpture trail and Visitor Centre on Cannon Chase is the next challenge. Walks begin at Pelsall Community Centre, at 10am each Wednesday.

At the October 16 meeting at Pelsall Community Centre, Ian Bott will take members on a Magical Midlands Mystery Tour via his illustrated talk.

The guild meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7.45pm at Pelsall Community Centre, Station Road.

For further information, call 01922 496465 or 01922 693278.

Talking 'shop' at September meeting

Kingswinford & District Historical Society

THE Society meets on the first Monday in the month at the Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford.

At the September meeting, Ned Williams' topic was 'Looking at Shops'. He showed how shopping had developed from the outdoor market, to the front room of a house to the High Street shop and on to today's supermarket.

Pictures of shop fronts showed their development from a side door to a double fronted shop with the signage designed to encourage the customer to enter.

Butchers' shops seemed to have retained their original character, many remaining as a family concern. The corporate image was portrayed in giving the shop fronts the same look and colour, e.g. Woolworths and Burton's. Today, shopping malls are more appealing and the village store and High Street shops find it difficult to compete.

On October 6 at 7.30pm, Alan Thornton will speak on 'The History of Cadburys' followed by tea and biscuits.

Troupe entertains with Irish dancing

Grange 'E' TG

CHAIRMAN Hazel Smith read the previous minutes at the September meeting, held at Grange Court, Stourbridge. These were approved and signed before treasurer Jill Attwood gave an up-to-date financial report.

Marlene O'Hanlon informed members that all speakers had been booked for 2015 and that items for the shoebox collection were going well.

Chris Holton also reported that items for the food bank were still coming in on a regular basis.

With all business completed the evening continued with a Harvest Supper.

The supper was preceded by a programme of Irish dancing provided by a local dance school. The five members of the dance group were very talented and had won many awards.

The evening continued with Harvest Supper with the food all prepared and served by committee members.

The evening was a huge success and thanks were given to the committee for all their hard work. The raffle was drawn with three lucky ladies winning prizes.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday October 7 when the speaker will be Mrs Dowthwaite giving a talk entitled 'Getting Ready for Christmas'.

If anyone is interested in joining the Guild or coming along as a visitor, call secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439 for more details.

Successful summer events

Tettenhall and District WI

TETTENHALL & District Women's institute have enjoyed two very successful events over the summer period.

Everyone enjoyed a lovely day at Tettenhall summer fair in July selling jam and jewellery.

The money raised was donated to a local charity the Haven. It was followed in August by a very pleasant evening on a guided tour and talk on the history of Bridgnorth

and then a lovely meal afterwards. Both events were well supported by members and friends.

Tettenhall & district is a local branch of the WI and meets every second Monday of the month at The United Reformed Church, Mount Road, Tettenhall, at 7.30pm.

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Volunteers bring in a bumper crop at vineyard



Volunteer Dan Smith helps to collect the crop of grapes at Halfpenny Green Vineyard, near Stourbridge

PERFECT weather conditions have yielded a bumper crop of grapes at Halfpenny Green vineyard.

An enthusiastic band of volunteers has been hard at work all week to help bring in this year's harvest.

Two warm weeks at the start of September have meant that the grapes are of the highest quality, bosses said today.

The crop of both red and white grapes will now go straight to the vineyard's winery where they will be turned into the finest wine.

Administrator Beverley Downing paid tribute to the army of volunteers and said this year's crop were the best yet.

"It's been a great year for us from the vine's point of view," she said. "There were no late frosts and the grapes flower at the end of July. It was quite dry, which was what was needed, and the first two weeks in September were warm, so it's been perfect."

"Last year we had a huge crop and it was great for quantity, but this year the quality is superb," she said.

The vineyard, at Tom Lane, Bobbington, is open seven days a week for

people to view the blossoming harvest. Self-guided tours are offered which describe the French, German and hybrid varieties planted.

Ms Downing said: "We have an army of volunteers who come back year after year."

"We have a lot of pickers and they were all there for the first day of the harvesting."

"The vineyard owner Martin Vickers coordinates the operation as all the grapes need to be tested as they go, because they all ripen at different times. It's a smoothly run operation," she said.

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Wolves legends in match to help hospital's A&E

FORMER Wolves legends laced their boots up in the name of charity, raising money for equipment at a Black Country hospital's A&E department.

Mel Eves, Steve Bull, Jody Craddock and Dale Rudge all appeared at the charity match in Stourbridge.

Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital A&E staff and the Dudley Group Charity teams had a number of special guests to help them out in a bid to raise funds.

Crowd

The A&E staff, with the help of Jody Craddock and Dale Rudge, ran out 4-0 winners in a match that was supported by a 600-strong crowd.

Paul Smith, a clinical support worker at the hospital who helped organise the match, said: "It was absolutely fantastic and it's really pleasing to get the support from the ex-professionals."

"Jody is still a very good player and Dale played really well."

"Mel Eves enjoyed himself and was joking around, and Steve Bull had a crowd around him the whole time of people who wanted pictures with him," he said.

The charity match at the weekend raised money for new equipment for the emergency department, including a vein finder and sensory equipment for children.

Mr Smith said: "We raised about £1,000 we think, we are still counting it up at the moment."

"It will go towards new equipment for the equipment for the emergency department."

"We had somewhere between 620 and 640 people come to watch which is just brilliant."



Health finance boss and ref Paul Assinder with Jody Craddock and Mel Eves



The victorious Emergency Department football team led by Jody Craddock

"The teams were really well supported, and they were treated to some good football."

"The teams mixed really well and there was a good team spirit on both sides."

On Saturday, there will be a presentation evening for the players at The Village Hotel in Dudley, where Mr Rudge will also be attending.

Mr Smith said: "We have Jenny Jones from The Voice coming to that and Dale will also be there."

Appreciate

"Jody Craddock and Steve Bull both raise money for their own charities and they have other engagements on Saturday but we really appreciate them supporting us this weekend."

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Tributes are paid to a guardian of the canals

TRIBUTES have been pouring in for a waterways campaigner who helped preserve Midlands waterways.

Vic Smallshire, who was a founder of Dudley Canal Trust, has died aged 69 after a battle against cancer.

He was a leading figure in helping to establish the trust in the face of concerns over the future of the Dudley canal tunnels.

In his younger days he helped build a small boat, the Aurora, with his father William. The boat was often seen journeying on the Black Country canal network.

Surveyor

Mr Smallshire was born in Bradley, Bilston, and worked for the National Coal Board as a mine surveyor at Bagderidge Colliery. He had also worked at a water utility company as chief surveyor.

When Mr Smallshire was stopped from taking his boat into the Dudley canal tunnel by officials, this sparked a bid to save the tunnel, mothballed in 1962. It reopened in 1973 after restoration by volunteers.

Chairman of Dudley Canal Trust (Trips) Ltd, Jeff Luesley, said: "It was down to his drive and initiative that the former British Transport Commission's plans to close Dudley Tunnel and adjoining waterways were thwarted with the foundation of Dudley Canal Tunnel Preservation Society, soon to become the Dudley Canal Trust. The trust reopened the tunnel and its associated limestone mines and caverns and created what was to become one of the Black Country's leading industrial tourism spots with upwards of 80,000 visitors a year."

Mr Smallshire is survived by his three children, Robert, Ian and Heather and four grandchildren. His wife Joy died in 1996.



Drive and initiative — Dudley Canal Trust's Vic Smallshire



The homemade family boat Aurora on the canal in the 1960s

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Harmony reigns with singing sisters

The Pierces, Glee Club, Birmingham THE singing sisters from Birmingham Alabama brought their dreamy folk-pop to Birmingham UK and it was much appreciated at a bursting at the seams Glee Club.

Newly released fifth album Creation hasn't quite elevated the LA-based 30something siblings to major venue status yet but that was to the benefit of those crammed into the low-ceilinged room, who got close up and

personal with one of the best duos on the planet.

Opener Elements set the tone, an anthemic blast of West Coast rock perfectly pitched at the Pierces' demographic, a Radio 2ish audience who probably have Fleetwood Mac and the Mamas and Papas in their record collection. Even The Pierces release on vinyl these days.

Backed by a four-piece band, the spine-tingling harmonies of Cath-

rine and Allison are where the magic happens and were employed superbly on Believe In Me and You'll Be Mine. That blend was heard to best effect on unplugged encore, a cover of Simon and Garfunkel's Kathy's Song.

The sisters, blonde hippyesque Catherine and brunette guitar strumming Allison, have a rapport hard to find outside family. Final encore, the aptly named Glorious, showed that this sister act can be enchanting.

Sold out success for 1975

1975,

Wolverhampton Civic Hall TIGHT Liverpool outfit Circa Waves warmed things up nicely with their abrasive choppy guitar rock and promise to become more than Merseyside's answer to The Strokes.

But the night belonged to Manchester's 1975 with a sold out gig that suggested the funky groove pop of their debut album has captured the imagination of many in their teens and 20s. Wilmslow boy Matt Healy, son of TV actors Tim Healy and Denise Welch, has a practised nonchalant air, confidently owning the stage as he swigged from his bottle when not strumming guitar or singing. His former road kill hairstyle has now developed into an unruly mop.

The 80-minute set got off to a flyer with The City and Settle Down but sagged in the middle with too many Spandau Ballet-like sax flourishes and a couple of indulgent dirges. But they were soon back in their stride with Girls before the crowd-pleasing encore of Robbers, Chocolate and Sex.

REVIEWS

By Leon Burakowski



Getting low down and dirty while dancing are Roseanna Frascona and Gareth Bailey

Audiences have the time of their lives at Dirty Dancing

Dirty Dancing, Wolverhampton Grand

THEY had the time of their lives. The Dirty Dancing devotees descended on the Grand in their hundreds for a show that celebrates and captures the magic of the classic movie.

How could a stage adaptation match the much-loved romantic movie starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey? Brilliantly.

And that's thanks to the care and the craft. The care has come from the way it has been adapted by the movie's writer Eleanor Bergstein and the craft is in the classy staging that is worthy of the West End.

A revolving stage and clever yet subtle use of video trickery enhance the atmosphere of upstate New York holiday resort

Kellerman's, where teen lust simmers beneath wholesome fun in the summer of '63.

Hip-swivelling Gareth Bailey literally doesn't put a foot wrong as Johnny Castle, the dance instructor from the wrong side of the tracks. This contrasts with Roseanna Frascona's doe-eyed innocence as Baby Houseman, awkwardness belying a steely determination to do the right thing.

It is in the set pieces that the show really takes off, the line 'Nobody puts Baby in a corner' and the famous dancefloor lift getting roars of approval from the predominantly female audience.

Dirty Dancing is at the Grand until Saturday, October 11.

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This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

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Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Oxjam prepares a takeover of city

OxJAM Music Festival takes place every October to raise money for Oxjam and is organised by volunteers. In Wolverhampton there will be events at various venues and October 18 will see 'takeover' day in the city.

A total of 24 local acts will be taking part at four venues — The Dog & Doublet, The Lighthouse Media Centre, The Slade Rooms and the Hungry Bistro.

Takeover manager Jess Hoyle said: "Wolverhampton has some great musical and artistic talent and this is an opportunity to celebrate that while raising money for a brilliant cause." Tickets are £9 and the wristband will allow entry to all the venues. See www.oxjamwolverhampton.co.uk

Led Zep tribute is back with a bang

BOOT-LED-ZEPPELIN are due to arrive with a bang at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday. The tribute to Led Zeppelin will include lasers, pyrotechnics and even a 'flaming gong'.

Other tributes at the Mount Pleasant venue include ELO Again tomorrow (Friday), Hi-On Maiden with Sack Sabbath and the Thin Lizzy Experience on October 10, Robert Alexander Giles as Michael Jackson on October 17.

Meanwhile, fans of Elvis Presley have lots on offer with Gordon Kendricks recreating Aloha From Hawaii at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre tomorrow and Lee Memphis King at the Robin on October 24.

Fourth singing sister taking on starring role in Blood Brothers

Jake's aim is to keep music real

NOT all youngsters are in thrall to The X Factor, 1D or whatever next act Simon Cowell tells them they should like.

The rise of Jake Bugg is testimony to that, although you will find a few grey hairs among young fans when the acoustic guitar slinger from Nottingham plays consecutive nights at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Monday and Tuesday.

The singer-songwriter has railed against: "manufactured pop bands — they don't have any heart, they don't have any soul."

There's a hint of Lennon about the 20-year-old who arrived with Lightning Bolt and a self-titled debut album at 18. Second album Shangri La sounded rushed but cemented his success.

It will be worth turning up early to catch support act, brothers Hudson Taylor. Rousing single Chasing Rubies suggests that Irish siblings Harry and Alfie have lots of potential.



Jake Bugg has railed against 'manufactured pop bands' — despite guesting on American Idol

WHEN Maureen Nolan took on the role of long-suffering mother Mrs Johnstone in hit musical Blood Brothers she became the fourth Nolan sister to star in the part.

Creator Willy Russell's dramatic Liverpool blend of music, tragedy and humour saw Blood Brothers become a massive success.

The tale of two brothers separated at birth, but set on a collision course in life, ran in London's West End for 24 years and next year will mark its 20th year of touring. In that time it has become a regular and much-loved fixture on the booking list for theatres nationwide.

Iconic

The latest version, directed by Bob Tomson and Merseyside-born theatre mogul Bill Kenwright, will feature Maureen Nolan in the iconic role previously played by her sisters Bernie, who died last year after a battle with cancer, Denise and Linda.

From an Irish showbusiness background but raised in Blackpool, Maureen was a member of singing sisters The Nolans for more than 30 years. The Nolans were hugely successful in the 1970s and 80s, enjoying phenomenal record sales worldwide, particularly in Japan where they sold more records than The Beatles.

Arriving at Birmingham Hippodrome this month,



Maureen Nolan stars

award-winning musical Blood Brothers tells the moving story of a mother's haunting secret. The score includes A Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and the emotionally charged Tell Me It's Not True.

Willy Russell's credits include hit plays Educating Rita and Shirley Valentine, both turned into successful films.

Blood Brothers will run from Monday, October 13, to Saturday, October 25. Tickets are priced £18 to £38 and available on 0844 338 5000 or online at birminghamhippodrome.com

'Cursed' novel is turned into a play

A SUPPOSEDLY 'cursed' novel is being brought to the stage in Birmingham.

The Frozen Scream is the first play by Tipping The Velvet and Finger-smith novelist Sarah Walters and was co-written with Christopher Green, who directs and appears in the production at Birmingham Hippodrome from January 7 to 17.

The play will feature veteran actress Rula Lenska, from EastEnders, Coronation Street and, memorably, Celebrity Big Brother.

The 1928 novel by CC Gilbert, in which guests stranded by a winter storm tell stories about a character called Jack Frost, was linked to a series of mysterious deaths. The ghost story aims to chill audiences and is for over 16s.

Ritzy show is on way to the Grand

JUST days after Dirty Dancing leaves the Grand, another big hit West End musical will open at the Wolverhampton theatre.

Winner of the 2013 Olivier Awards for best new musical, choreography and costumes, Top Hat tap dances onto the stage with a celebration of the Hollywood golden age when Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers reigned supreme.

Featuring such songs as Cheek to Cheek and Puttin' on the Ritz, the show will star Alan Burkitt and Charlotte Gooch, who were both in the London cast.

It is at the Lichfield Street venue from October 21 to November 1.

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CHOICE



Mike Rutherford and Phil Collins

Genesis: Together & Apart (BBC2, 9.15pm)
Many schoolboys get together to form a band, but few of them go on to become multi-million-selling recording artists – but that's what happened to Genesis. Its core members – Peter Gabriel, Mike Rutherford and Tony Banks – met at Charterhouse, a public school in Surrey, and began playing together with two other students in 1967. A few years and personnel changes later (including the addition of drummer Phil Collins) and the classic line-up was in place. But relationships within the band were fraught; Gabriel left for a solo career in 1975, and Rutherford, Collins, Banks and Steve Hackett carried on without him. Here, they're back together again to discuss their careers. Rare archive footage helps tell the story.

BBC1

7.30 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix – Qualifying. 2.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 3.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Final Score. 5.15 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 5.30 Pointless Celebrities.
6.20 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman present the first of this weekend's two shows – and this is when things get serious. There are no more second chances for the minkie-toed stars – Pixie Lott, Jake Wood, Frankie Bridge, Gregg Wallace, Caroline Flack, Simon Webbe, Alison Hammond, Steve Backshall, Sunetra Sarker, Mark Wright, Jennifer Gibney, Scott Mills, Judy Murray, Thom Evans and Tim Wonnacott – as they and their partners step out onto the dance floor tomorrow. Tomorrow the first pro-celebrity couple will be leaving the competition, as their scores from judges Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell are added to those of the voting viewers. But which pair will have performed their last dance? The results are tomorrow at 7.20pm.
8.30 Doctor Who. The time-travelling companions crash-land on the moon, where they find a mining base full of corpses – while vicious, spider-like creatures wait in the dark, ready to attack.
9.15 Casualty. Connie takes a few select members of staff for a day out, only for disaster to strike when their minibus collides with another vehicle. Jeff lets Dixie know where she stands.
10.05 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin reveals the results of the Lotto and Thunderball draws.
10.15 BBC News. Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gabby Logan presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes; National Lottery Update.
11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Watford v Brighton & Hove Albion.
1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.15 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.25 Film:** The Falcon's Alibi. (1946) 7.25 Film: The Charge of the Light Brigade. (1936) 9.20 The Trials of Life. (R) 10.10 The Trials of Life. (R) 10.55 Map Man. (R) 11.30 South Africa Walks. (R) 12.00 Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) 12.30 The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) 1.00 Film: Flying Down to Rio. (1933) 2.25 Film: Follow the Fleet. (1936) 4.15 Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes. (R) 5.15 The £100K House: Tricks of the Trade. (R) 6.15 **Restoring England's Heritage.** Selina Scott visits historic buildings in the East Midlands in desperate need of restoration and investigates whether they have a future. First shown on BBC One East Midlands.
6.45 Gardeners' World. Monty Don offers advice on planting onions and garlic and Carol Klein takes first-time gardeners Dan and Dominique to RHS Rosemoor in Devon for seasonal inspiration. (R) 7.15 **Flag! It! Trade Secrets.** The team looks into the difference a connection to a famous person makes to an item's value and presenter Paul Martin learns more about the life of children's author Arthur Ransome.
7.45 Penguins – Spy in the Huddle. David Tennant narrates an insight into three different species of penguin, using spy cameras to get closer to the birds as they travel to their breeding grounds. (R) 8.45 **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring and the platoon dress as firemen to take part in an initiative exercise, but soon find themselves tackling a real fire. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R) 9.15 **Genesis: Together & Apart.** Feature-length profile of one of the most successful British bands in rock, featuring interviews with Phil Collins, Peter Gabriel, Tony Banks, Mike Rutherford and Steve Hackett.
10.50 TOTP2: Genesis. Archive performances by the band and its members.
11.30 Film: The Good Shepherd. (2006) A CIA worker faces a terrible choice between national security and ensuring the safety of his family. Fact-based spy drama, with Matt Damon and Robert De Niro, who also directed.
2.05 This Is BBC Two. 5.50 Countryfile. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stuart. (R) 6.35 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Animals. (R) 7.10 Animals. (R) 7.20 Om Nom Stories. (R) 7.25 Sooty. (R) 7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Matt Hatter Chronicles. 8.15 Neds & Monsters. (R) 8.30 The Munch Box. 9.25 The Hungry Sailors. (R) 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.25 ITV News; Weather. 11.30 Storage Hoarders. (R) 12.30 May the Best House Win. (R) 1.30 The X Factor. (R) 2.30 Film: About a Boy. (2002) Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant and Toni Collette. 4.30 The X Factor. (R) 5.35 Off Their Rockers. (R) 6.05 **Regional Programme;** Weather. 6.15 **ITV News.** Weather. 6.30 **New You've Been Framed!** Surreal comedy with Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' clips. Andy Murray's mother uses him as target practice to toughen him up, and the Westminster chair takes a day off.
7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Radio 2 presenter Ken Bruce, former England midfielder Paul Ince, EastEnders actress Laila Morse (Mo Harris) and boxer David Haye take on a trivia expert. Bradley Wale hosts.
8.00 The X Factor. As the judges' houses stage continues, the route to the live shows draws tantalisingly closer for the remaining 24 acts, who perform in glamorous destinations around the world. Across the weekend, the over 25s try to impress Simon Cowell and Sinita in Los Angeles, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini in with Timi Tempah in the French city of Nice to audition the girls, Emma Bunton helps Mel B select the best boys in Cancun, Mexico, and Louis Walsh heads to Bermuda with Tulisa and the groups.
9.20 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon visits mystery celebrity homes and challenges this week's panel – Joey Essex, Carol Vorderman and Vernon Kay – to guess the identities of the famous owners.
10.15 ITV News. Weather. 10.30 **Film: Red Heat.** (1988) A Russian detective and a Chicago cop plot aside their mutual mistrust to catch an escaped Soviet drug baron. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.
12.25 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.35 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.00 Trans World Sport. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Weekend Kitchen. 10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 Frasier. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.25 The Simpsons. (R) 12.55 Gadget Man. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot and Newmarket. 4.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.35 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.05 **Stars at Your Service.** As part of the Stand Up to Cancer fundraising campaign, this series gives viewers the chance to book some of Britain's best-loved celebrities for any bespoke service.
7.05 Channel 4 News. 7.20 **Sarah Beeny's Double Your House for Half the Money.** A Birmingham couple take a huge gamble with their plan for a double-height extension, while a couple in Northamptonshire want to develop their 1960s bungalow on a £75,000 budget. (R) 8.15 **Grand Designs.** Tracy Fox and husband Steve want to build an "urban shed" featuring two studios, three bedrooms and a double-height space with a walkway, made out of industrial-style materials including corrugated cement fibreboard and 20ft panels of polycarbonate sheeting. Having discovered an old milk yard tucked away behind some flats and shops in south-east London, their long-held desire to build a highly unconventional family home and workspace begins. (R) 9.20 **Film: Battle: Los Angeles.** (2011) The Earth is bombarded by what appear to be meteors, but turn out to be the vanguard of an alien invasion force. As America's west coast comes under heavy attack, a platoon of soldiers is sent in to fight off the aliens and rescue civilians – but the troops have only a few hours to complete their mission before the area is bombed. Sci-fi thriller, with Aaron Eckhart and Ramon Rodriguez.
11.40 Rude Tube. Alex Zane looks at clips whose stars have become online celebrities in their own right. Last in the series. (R) 12.40 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 1.40 Homeland. (R) 2.40 Hollyoaks. 4.45 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.40 Win It Cook It. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 10.15 The Secret Life of Pets. (R) 10.45 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 11.45 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 12.45 Storage: Flog the Lot! (R) 1.40 Film: Patton. (1970) Biopic of the general whose short temper and rugged individuality inspired his men and infuriated his superiors during the Second World War. With George C Scott and Karl Malden. Edited for language. 5.00 5 News Weekend. 5.05 Film: Silverado. (1985) Western, with Kevin Kline and Kevin Costner. 7.35 **Film: Joe Kidd.** (1972) A bounty hunter is asked to capture a Mexican revolutionary leader, and accepts the job after the rebels' men attack his own ranch. But when he witnesses the cruel methods used by his employer, he resolves to bring the fugitive to a fair trial rather than let him face rough justice. Western, starring Clint Eastwood, Robert Duvall and John Saxon. Part of the Clint Eastwood season. Edited for violence and language. 9.15 **Film: A Fistful of Dollars.** (1964) A mysterious gunslinger rides into a town on the Mexican border divided by two warring families. After killing the henchmen of one clan, he seems to have made it clear where his loyalties lie and is hired by their rivals. However, he is secretly planning to play them off against each other to his own advantage. Sergio Leone's Western, with Clint Eastwood making his first appearance as The Man with No Name alongside Gian Maria Volonte and Marianne Koch. 11.20 **World War II in Colour.** This edition looks at Hitler's plans to push his forces into the Soviet Union, beginning with the launch of Operation Barbarossa in the summer of 1941. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 3.10 Benefit House: Me & My 22 Kids. This edition of the programme focuses on large families who depend on the benefits system. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. Property guru Ann Maurice applies her home improvement remedies to a house in Spenny Moor, Co Durham, for the purpose of finding an eager buyer as soon as possible. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth. 8.00 Top Gear. 9.05 Film: Kung Fu Panda (2008). 10.30 Bad Education. 11.00 Family Guy. 1.30 Bad Education. 2.00 Seann Walsh's Late Night Comedy Spectacular 2014. 3.00 Impractical Jokers. 4.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Yellowstone. 8.00 Hidden Killers of the Victorian Home. 9.00 Crimes of Passion. 10.35 Could We Survive a Mega-Tsunami? 11.35 Top of the Pops: 1979. 12.10 Sounds of the Eighties. 1.05 The Richest Songs in the World. 2.35 Yellowstone. 3.35 Close
ITV2
11.15 The X Factor. 12.15 The Xtra Factor. 12.45 The Best of You've Been Framed! Animal Special. 1.45 You've Been Framed! Kids Special. 2.50 You've Been Framed! 3.15 Film: Valiant. (2005) 4.55 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) 7.05 Film: The Incredible Hulk. (2008) 9.20 The Xtra Factor. 9.50 The Job Lot. 10.15 Celebrity Juice. 11.00 The X Factor. 12.20 The Xtra Factor. 12.45 Film: Billy Madison (1995) 2.20 Two and a Half Men. 2.45 Teleshopping. 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.20 Film: Vanity Fair. (2004) 3.10 Film: Gosford Park. (2001) 5.55 Inspector Morse. 8.00 Rosemary & Thyme. 9.00 Midsomer Murders. 11.00 Film: Death on the Nile. (1978) 1.45 World Kitchen. 2.10 ITV3 Nightscreen. 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4
1.20 Touring Car Legends. 3.25 British Touring Car Championship Highlights. 5.00 Touring Car Legends. 6.00 Storage Wars. 8.00 River Monsters. 9.00 Film: Moonraker. (1979) 11.40 Film: Maximum Conviction. (2012) 1.45 David Weir: Sports Life Stories. 2.40 Movies Now. 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen. 3.00 Teleshopping
E4
11.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. 12.30 The Big Bang Theory. 2.30 Melissa & Joey. 3.30 Film: City of Ember. (2008) 5.30 The 100. 6.30 How I Met Your Mother. 7.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine. 8.00 The Big Bang Theory. 9.00 Film: Priest. (2011) 10.50 The Inbetweeners. 1.40 How I Met Your Mother. 2.55 Smallville. 3.35 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. 4.20 Desperate Housewives
Film4
11.00 On the Fiddle. (1961) 1.00 King Kong. (1976) 3.45 Big Fish. (2003) 6.10 The Hunt for Red October. (1990) 9.00 Forrest Gump. (1994) 11.40 The Woman in Black. (2012) 1.30 4.3.2.1. (2010) 3.55 Close



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CHOICE



Simon Reeve

Sacred Rivers with Simon Reeve (BBC2, 9pm)
The adventurer returns with a series that takes him around the world to areas that cannot be fully appreciated without considering the vast influence of their rivers, and he's going to explain how those sacred rivers don't just simply flow through countries – they define them. Simon begins at the source of the world's longest river, the Nile, and follows it out to sea, taking him from the Ethiopian highlands, through the desert of Sudan and then Egypt, right to the Mediterranean Sea. He also explains how the Nile has forged some of our earliest civilisations and influenced religions. However, the stability of the region looks uncertain, given that populations along its banks are growing, and Nile countries are demanding greater shares of the sacred waters.

BBC1

6.00 Live Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix. **8.15** The Ant and the Aardvark. **9.15** The Sunday Morning Live. **11.15** Sunday Politics. **12.30** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Formula 1: Japanese Grand Prix. **3.15** Escape to the Country. **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** The Great British Bake Off. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.55** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **6.20** **Countryside**. The team explores different methods of crop-gathering, following one of the best harvesters in years. Matt Baker is in Lincolnshire, finding out how technology is being used to get the harvest in efficiently, and could also help grow better vegetables in the future. Ellie Harrison is in Devon, exploring more traditional methods of harvesting that go back many years, and Adam Henson is on a farm where crops are harvested not for eating but for rubbing on the skin. Also, John Craven announces the winner of the photographic competition. **7.20** **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results**. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the results show, as the judges choose between the two couples with the lowest scores. With music by Jamie Cullum and Gregory Porter. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow**. The team returns to Scone Palace in Perthshire, uncovering a 19th-century military campaign box possibly linked to Napoleon and an implement of corporal punishment. **9.00** **Our Girl**. Molly and Smurf return to the UK on leave, but with their comrades facing a big threat in Afghanistan, they struggle with life back home and find comfort with each other. **10.00** **BBC News**; Regional News; Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day 2**. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, including Chelsea v Arsenal at Stamford Bridge and Manchester United v Everton at Old Trafford. **11.50** **Film: I Love You, Man**. (2009) A groom-to-be with no male friends goes in search of a best man for his wedding. However, his fiancée does not approve of his choice. Comedy, starring Paul Rudd. **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.50 Gardeners' World. **7.20** The Beechgrove Garden. **7.50** Match of the Day. **9.10** The Football League Show. **10.30** Live Athletics. **1.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **3.00** **Film: The Alamo**. (2004) Historical Western, starring Dennis Quaid. **5.05** Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs. **6.05** **Flag It!** Paul Martin and the team head to the Lincolnshire seaside resort of Skegness, where experts David Barby and Elizabeth Talbot valued items brought in by the public. **7.00** **Jungle Atlantis**. Part two of two. The experts continue their attempt to discover why Angkor suddenly collapsed, using a revolutionary technology called lidar to reveal the true scale and splendour of this abandoned megacity. Deep in the Cambodian jungle, they have discovered a sophisticated network of roads and animals that are the forgotten world of Angkor's greatest king, shedding new light on the dramatic events leading to the fall of the city. **8.00** **Wonders of the Monsoon**. New series. Exploring how the lives of humans and animals are shaped by the weather system that annually transforms an enormous part of the Earth. **9.00** **Sacred Rivers with Simon Reeve**. New series. The adventurer visits some of the world's most famous waterways and investigates how they have shaped the lives of the people living along them, beginning with the Nile. **10.00** **Mock the Week**. James Acaster, Ed Byrne, Sara Pascoe and Josh Widdicombe join regular panellists Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. Dara O Briain hosts. **10.30** **01 XL**. Extended edition. Sarah Millican, Ross Noble, Colin Lane and Alan Davies answer Stephen Fry's questions about animals on the first show of the quiz's "L" series. **11.15** **Film: The Greatest**. (2009) A grieving family unable to cope with the death of a son receives an unwanted visit from his pregnant girlfriend. Drama, starring Pierce Brosnan, Susan Sarandon and Carey Mulligan. **12.50** **Film: The Black Balloon**. (2008) **2.20** Sign Zone. **Countryside**. **3.20** Holby City. **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. **6.35** Pat & Stan. **6.40** Dino Dan. **Trek's** Adventures. **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **7.05** Canimals. **7.10** Canimals. **7.20** On Nom Stories. **7.25** Sooty. **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. **7.50** Ultimate Solder-Man. **8.20** Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats! Super Show. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. **11.30** ITV News; Weather. **11.40** **Film: Carry On at Your Convenience**. (1971) **1.25** **Film: Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties**. (2006) **3.00** The X Factor. **4.10** Downtown Abbey. **5.15** All Star Family Fortunes. **6.00** **Off Their Rockers**. Keith barters for a new TV. Sonia needs to be unlocked from her bedstead. Dave referees a football game and Rosie and Marry find out who is the best kisser. Last in the series. **6.30** **Regional Programme**; Weather. **6.45** **ITV News**; Weather. **7.00** **Sunday Night at the Palladium**. Jimmy Carr hosts the variety show, introducing performances by Nicole Scherzinger, Kaiser Chiefs, Tommy Tiernan, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott, and Japanese speciality act Enra. **8.00** **The X Factor**. As the judges' houses stage concludes, the 24 acts pack their bags and prepare to head home, but for the 12 who have made it to the live shows, the competition has only just begun. **9.00** **Downton Abbey**. Violet tries to stop Mary's secret assignation being exposed, the events surrounding Green's death come under scrutiny once again and old wounds are reopened for Mrs Patmore. **10.05** **ITV News**; Weather. **10.20** **Piers Morgan's Live Stories: Martin Kemp**. The actor and musician talks about finding fame in Spandau Ballet before going on to star in EastEnders, and how George Michael helped him find a wife, as well as land his TV role. **11.20** **Premiership Rugby Union**. Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures, which included Bath v Saracens, Gloucester v Leicester and London Irish v Northampton Saints. **12.15** The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **4.05** **ITV** Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **5.10** American Football Live. **5.10** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **5.35** Countdown. **6.10** How I Met Your Mother. **6.35** How I Met Your Mother. **7.00** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.30** NFL: The American Football Show. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **9.25** Frasier. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. **12.50** Channel 4 Racing: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Including the feature races at 3.30. **4.00** **Film: The Legend of Zorro**. 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(2011) A lawyer negotiating a land deal in Hawaii is forced to take a more active role in his two daughters' upbringing when a boating accident leaves his wife in a coma. He learns she was having an affair, a fact his friends and eldest child were keeping from him. With the two girls in tow, he sets off to find and confront her lover. Drama, with George Clooney. **11.15** **Film: Ghosts of Girlfriends Past**. (2009) A man trying to stop his bride's wedding is haunted by old conquests who show him where his life has gone wrong. Romantic comedy, starring Matthew McConaughey and Jennifer Garner. **1.20** American Football Live. **5.10** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **5.35** Countdown. **6.10** How I Met Your Mother. **6.35** How I Met Your Mother. **7.00** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.30** NFL: The American Football Show. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **9.25** Frasier. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. **12.50** Channel 4 Racing: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. 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MONDAY

Next, Channel 5, 10.55pm

A magician has the ability to see into the immediate future. When intelligence suggests a nuclear attack on Los Angeles is imminent, an FBI counter-terror agent sets out to persuade the gifted individual to use his psychic powers to avert disaster. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Julianne Moore, Jessica Biel and Thomas Kretschmann. (2007)

TUESDAY

Forgetting Sarah Marshall, ITV, 10.40pm

A musician is devastated when his actress girlfriend leaves him, and he tries to cure his broken heart with a holiday in Hawaii. Unfortunately, his efforts to forget the past are scuppered when his ex turns out to be staying at the same resort, with her new boyfriend – a successful rock star – in tow. Romantic comedy, starring Jason Segel, Kristen Bell and Russell Brand. (2008)



Next, Monday, Channel 5, 10.55pm

WEDNESDAY

Gracie's Choice, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A caring teenager has looked after her younger brothers and sister all their lives, while their violent, alcoholic mother is unable to cope. When their mother's self-destructive behaviour goes too far, she campaigns to legally adopt her siblings, while also striving to complete her education. Fact-based drama, starring Kristen Bell, Anne Heche and Sherry Anderson. (2004)

THURSDAY

Goodnight for Justice: The Measure of a Man, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A judge visits a Wild West town terrorised by a band of outlaws whom he witnesses robbing a bank. He resolves to bring the crooks to justice, but an encounter with a local widow makes him realise a young member of the gang may not be as guilty as he appears. Western sequel, starring Luke Perry and Stefanie von Pfetten. (2012)

FRIDAY

Nutty Professor II: The Klumps, ITV, 11.10pm

Bumbling scientist Sherman Klump is engaged to be married and determined to rid himself of his troublesome alter ego Buddy Love for ever. All his problems look set to be solved by his fiancée's latest DNA experiment – but things are about to spiral out of control. Comedy sequel, starring Eddie Murphy in multiple roles, along with Janet Jackson and Larry Miller. (2000)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Paying tribute to the nation's unsung heroes

It's that time of year again when royalty, politicians, and celebrities from TV, film and the sports field get together for one very special event.

They'll be leaving their egos at the door of Grosvenor House in London's Park Lane to honour everyday folk who have achieved remarkable things.

Carol Vorderman once again takes up duties in hosting the ceremony, hearing thought-provoking stories of heroism and courage with the odd famous surprise thrown in for good measure. There are many uplifting tales of going the extra mile here, which, in a world where everyone seems to be looking out for themselves, restores your faith in humanity.

Once more, Prince Charles and Prime Minister David Cameron will be present and correct, along with celebrities including Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Stephen Fry, Amanda Holden, Tom Jones, Mr Selfridge stars Jeremy Piven and Katherine Kelly, and gold medal-winning Olympians Chris Hoy and Bradley Wiggins.

Launched by the Daily Mirror in 1999, the event touched a chord from

day one. Judges were stunned by winners' tales, such as teenager Sarah Dinsdale, who rescued her mother from a fast-flowing river, and 11-year-old Lucy-Rae Tamulevicius, who learnt to dance while fighting a rare and debilitating form of cancer.

They were humbled by the stories of the bomb victims and rescue workers of Omagh and of Daniel Gallimore, who was blinded while trying to help a man being attacked in the street.

In 2000, ITV decided to screen the event, and it proved a success, with 10 million viewers tuning in.

Aside from honouring Teacher Of The Year, Child or Teenager of Courage, and ITV Local Fundraiser of The Year, the ceremony also gives out a Lifetime Achievement Award, which in the past has been granted to the likes of Peter Benenson, who started Amnesty International, and Nicholas Winton, who saved hundreds of Jewish children from the Holocaust.

Back to the 2014 event, and among those collecting plaudits are a woman who has fostered 1,200 children; Tim Berners-Lee, the British Oxford University Graduate who revolutionised

the planet with the World Wide Web, and there's a posthumous honour for Stephen Sutton.

Aged 15, he was diagnosed with bowel cancer, but spent the final months of his life raising millions of pounds for charity via a bucket list of things he wanted to do before he died.

His cause attracted the attention of many, including comedian John Bishop (present tonight), and Coronation Street's Sam Aston (Chesney). He is one of the folks who nominated Stephen "for all his amazing efforts and hard work."

TPOBA is always moving event which has left many attendees and those watching at home in tears, so it's a good job Vorderman has come prepared.

"It's always a great honour to present the Daily Mirror's Pride of Britain Awards and meet such extraordinary, courageous and awe-inspiring people," she explains.

"This year's winners are truly remarkable and the stories are breathtaking. Some are so moving I will ensure I'm wearing waterproof mascara!"



Carol Vorderman hosts The Pride of Britain Awards 2014, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

The Kitchen BBC2, 9pm

New series. Documentary series following eight very different households in their kitchens, as they cook, eat and share their lives. It's late August in this first instalment, and cameras observe the Barry-Powers blended family in Cardiff, as mum Louise struggles to meet the culinary demands of five children, while the Harrars in Staffordshire get passionate about their Punjabi recipes, and single mother Sue Evans and her grown-up daughter Ginny try to keep 10-year-old Gabriel amused in Birmingham. The activities of fitness fanatics Matt, Dave and Xanthi, pensioners Marilyn and Wilfred, the Garbuts family, the Mitchell-Cotts and the Gales are also scrutinised.

Grantchester ITV, 9pm

New series. Detective drama set in a 1950s Cambridgeshire village, where local vicar Sidney Chambers (James Norton) develops a sideline in sleuthing – with the initially reluctant help of grumpy DI Geordie Keating (Robson Green). The cleric's first case finds him out when he presides over the funeral of a solicitor, who is believed to have taken his own life. However, the dead man's mistress has a different theory – and feeling unable

to go to the police, she asks Sidney to examine it for her. He uncovers evidence that the suicide was staged, but while he's busy delving into the personal life of the victim, will the vicar miss his own big chance with Amanda Kendall (Morven Christie), the woman he secretly loves? With Tessa Peake-Jones, Kacey Ainsworth and Rachel Shelley.

TUESDAY

Cat Watch 2014: The New Horizon Experiment BBC2, 8pm

Millions of people have cats in their homes, yet they know very little about them. Are they playful pets, fearsome fighters or deadly hunters? In this three-part programme, Liz Bonnin joins forces with some of the world's leading feline experts to conduct a groundbreaking scientific study using GPS trackers and mini-cameras to follow 100 cats in three very different environments to find out what they get up to when they leave the house. The first edition examines how cats see, hear and smell the world with the senses developed by their wild ancestors, and looks at why this could be making life difficult for them in the modern world. Continues tomorrow.



Grantchester, Monday, ITV, 9pm

WEDNESDAY

The Great British Bake Off: The Final BBC1, 8pm

Over the past 10 weeks, we have seen the amateur bakers whip up eclairs sprinkled with bacon, fire-breathing biscuit dragons and a very controversial baked Alaska. But now, just three contestants remain – and only one more weekend of baking stands between them and the trophy. Judges Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry have saved their most fiendish tests till last, as the finalists face a Signature Challenge in which they have just three hours to prove they have mastered a pastry technique that usually takes a whole day. They then have to tackle a Technical Challenge without the aid of a recipe, before

rustling up a Showstopper that turns sponge, caramel, choux pastry and petits fours into a winning combination. At least Sue Perkins and Mel Giedroyc are on hand to lighten the atmosphere if it all gets too tense. Last in the series.

THURSDAY

Live International Football ITV, 7.15pm

England v San Marino (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the Euro 2016 Group E qualifier at Wembley Stadium. This is the second consecutive qualifying campaign in succession that Roy Hodgson's men have been drawn in the same group as the minnows, and they secured a 5-0 win when the teams met here in October 2012 on the road to Brazil.

FRIDAY

Lewis

ITV, 9pm

New series. The last run of the detective drama ended with Lewis (Kevin Whately) starting a new life away from the force, but it seems that peace and quiet doesn't suit him – which is just as well, as newly promoted DI Hathaway (Laurence Fox) is struggling to find a sidekick, and within just four weeks is already on to his second sergeant, DS Lizzie Maddox (Angela Griffin).

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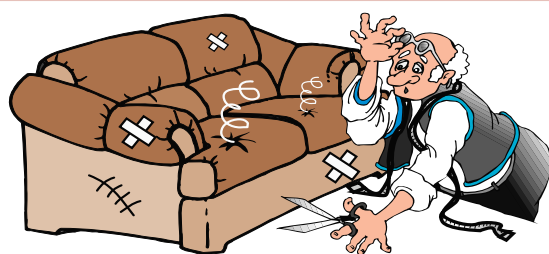
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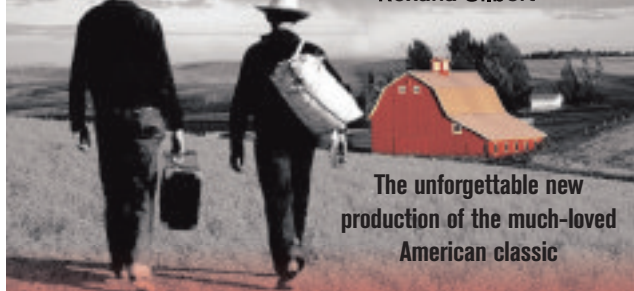
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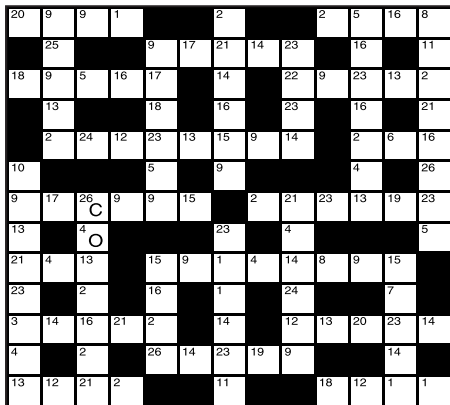
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THE REP
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Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
X	D	V	K	I	O	F	L	A	J	R	Z	E
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	Q	C	Y	W	U	N	M	S	H	B	G	P

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

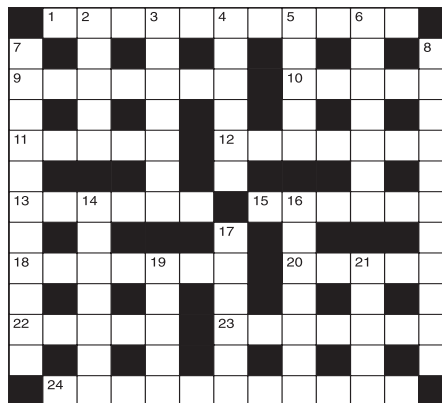
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Qualified com-
dealer? (11)
9. One who insists
on facts is later
confused (7)
10. Enclose a brooch
(5)
11. Sailor returned with
an article to wash
(5)
12. Women have warm
regard for his wares
(7)
13. Charge back up in
time, perhaps (6)
15. For him to laze is
unusual (6)
18. The last word
in conversation,
perhaps (7)
20. Dish used by pho-
tographers? (5)
22. A torn stub joins at
the sides (5)
23. Odd way to go from
place to place (7)
24. Agree with
someone as tall as
yourself? (3,3,2,3)

Down

2. It beats any one of
13 cards (5)
3. Intend to let out
apparel (7)
4. Don't encourage
delay (3,3)
5. Stage make-up (5)
6. A dog leaps in wildly
(7)
7. Literally, it had a
very large popula-
tion (11)
8. It needs to be ac-
curate, even after
drink (6,5)
14. Possible purse of
plenty (7)
16. Some grass to
spare, perhaps (7)
17. He should honour
his agreement to
the letter (6)
19. Cook and sew (5)
21. A negative in any
trouble (5)



Quick Clues:

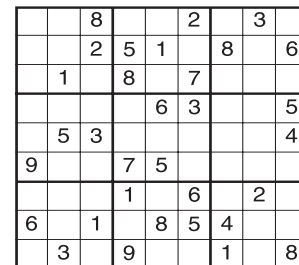
Across

1. Strange machine (11)
9. Non-professional (7)
10. Subject (5)
11. Takes notice (5)
12. Succeed (7)
13. Transgress (6)
15. Parson (6)
18. Shorten (7)
20. Hatred (5)
22. Master (5)
23. Eating away (7)
24. Compel (11)

Down

2. Declaim (5)
3. Disloyalty (7)
4. Sudden (6)
5. Heading (5)
6. Out of doors (4,3)
7. Stylish (11)
8. Successor (11)
14. Abandon (7)
16. Prospect (4-3)
17. Merry-making (6)
19. Ignoramus (5)
21. Ass (5)

27



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS >

4	8	1	6	9	2	7	3
7	6	5	4	1	3	8	9
3	9	2	7	8	5	1	4
1	7	3	2	4	6	9	5
2	5	6	8	3	9	4	7
8	4	9	1	5	7	6	2
5	2	7	9	6	8	3	1
9	1	8	3	2	4	5	6
6	3	4	5	7	1	2	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Pleasure; 5 Ball; 9 Olic;
10 Ignorant; 11 Route; 12 Lattice; 13 Stock
breeders; 18 Resented; 19 Saps; 20 Portend; 21
Turns; 22 Step; 23 Proceeds. Down: 2 Lets out;
3 Ascetic; 4 Regular reader; 6 Avarice; 7 Letters
8 Loathe; 13 Stripes; 14 Observe; 15 Kennel; 16
Dispute; 17 Repined. QUICK - Across:
1 Adoption; 5 Acts; 9 User; 10 Strainer; 11
Weapon; 12 Sordid; 13 United Kingdom; 18
Invent; 19 Arrow; 20 Agitate; 21 Slay; 22 Dull;
23 Assorted. Down: 2 Disdain; 3 Project; 4
Unpenned; 6 Content; 7 Serfdom; 8 Bar-
ren; 13 Upbraid; 14 Initial; 15 Endear; 16 Glitter;
17 Operate.

1. Whose only opera was Fidelio?
2. Who was the queen consort of Edward VII?
3. Which US state is known as the Heart of Dixie?
4. Of what nationality was Django Reinhardt?
5. Of which country is Port Moresby the capital?

6. Which boxer was known as The Manassa Mauler?
7. In which craft did Yuri Gagarin become the first man in space?
8. In which Texan city is the Alamo?
9. Of which ballet company was Nureyev a member when he defected?
10. Whom did George I succeed as monarch?


11. Which party is named from the Gaelic for Soldiers of Destiny?
12. Of which city were the Medici a noble family?
13. Who wrote *Breakfast at Tiffany's*?
14. How is Holy Innocent's Day also known?
15. Which world leaders met at the 1943 Casablanca Conference?

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

277459 gives an Indian city;
658677 gives a Scottish city;
617337 gives a French city.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



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First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

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MOSS GROVE

FOR SALE £179,500

Detached Property. To Include: Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Morning Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway, Garage and well maintained Front & Rear Gardens.

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LABURNUM ROAD

£395 pcm*

Ground Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating

QUARRY BANK



NEW STREET

£435 pcm*

End Terrace House, Large Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Courtyard to the rear, Off Road Parking for 2 cars, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

DUDLEY



LIMES ROAD

£525 pcm*

Modern Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished

LAKESIDE



LAKESIDE COURT

£510 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.

KINGSWINFORD



LARCH ROAD

£395 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Unfurnished

STOURBRIDGE



PERRINS LANE

FOR SALE £210,000

Large Well Presented Traditional Detached House: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Large Dining Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Separate Double Shower, Gas Central Heating, Well laid out Gardens, Off Road Parking

TIVIDALE



ALEXANDRA WAY

£495 pcm*

Mid Terrace House, Entrance, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Allocated Parking Space, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing, Unfurnished

SEDGLEY



WESTFIELD ROAD

£575 pcm*

Semi-Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Dining Room, TV Room, Shower Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

BRIERLEY HILL



CAMPBELL STREET

£525 pcm*

Semi-Detached House, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs Toilet, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED

KINGSWINFORD



GRANTLEY CRESCENT

£795 pcm*

Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Area, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

PENSNETT



MULLETT STREET

£525 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom with Shower, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished

WALL HEATH



FOUNDRY ROAD

FOR SALE £194,950

Beautifully presented semi detached property. Comprising of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.

KINGSWINFORD



WESTCOTT CLOSE

£795 pcm*

Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Conservatory, WC, Four Bedrooms, En Suite to Master Bedroom, Family Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Double Garage, Off Road Parking, Rear Gardens, Unfurnished

WALL HEATH



CROSS STREET

£775 pcm*

Semi-Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Carpet, Off road parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

KINGSWINFORD



BARTIC AVENUE

£395 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

NETHERTON



CINDERBANK

£200 pcm*

Shop premises on main road position (kiosk style) £200 pcm Lease term negotiable Main Road Position

WILLENHALL



MILL LANE

£510 pcm*

End Terrace Property, Lounge, Large Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden, Parking

PROPERTY

Potential to make mark at a character property



A CHARACTER detached house in Himley Road, Gornal Wood, is in a sought after area within walking distance of the village.

It has been extended and still offers potential, including a garage that could be converted into living accommodation. It is for sale through Swinscoes for offers based on £235,000. It has a porch, a lounge with beams and open fireplace with a log burner, a dining kitchen, utility room, downstairs bathroom, four bedrooms, a shower room, garage and a rear garden with a lawn. Contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk



End-terrace is located in a pleasant cul-de-sac



A WELL presented two-bedroomed end of terrace home, 8 Rubens Close, Upper Gornal, Dudley, is located in a delightful cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Roden Boydell at £122,950.

This home has contemporary living accommodation with double glazing and gas central heating.

It briefly comprises a reception porch, a lounge, a dining kitchen with space for a cooker with an extractor fan above, a dining area and laminate flooring, two bedrooms, a bathroom, a driveway, a pleasant rear garden and views to the front.

For further information contact Roden Boydell on 01902 881188 or visit www.rodenboydell.com website.



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LOT 4

5.1 acres of pasture on
Willersley Road,
Badsey, Worcestershire

LOT 5

5.2 acres of pasture
at Eldersfield,
Worcestershire,
nr Tewkesbury

LOT 6

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(0.46 ha) of pasture land
• 3 stables and hay store

GUIDE £20,000

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on 01562 820880**

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building into two four bedroom houses.
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bedroom modern house.

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Plot • 1 x Two Bed Barn • 2 x Four Bed
Houses • Existing Three Bed House
• Accessible Location • Large Parking
Area • View By Appointment

Guide Price £375,000
**For more information contact
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Stourton Court, Bridgnorth Road, Stourton, DY7 5BQ

**Stourton Court is a most elegant early Victorian Country
House offering an abundance of character set in this
much sought after location on the outskirts of greenbelt
countryside.**

- Spacious Country Home
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and 3 Apartments
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Commercial Appeal
- 6 Current Properties
- Planning consent for further
development
- Wonderful Rural Position
- Landscaped Gardens
- Approximately 4 Acres in Total
- EPC = G

OFFERS INVITED IN THE REGION OF £1,250,000



Broad House Farm, Cutnall Green, Worcestershire

**A most handsome and elegant Grade II listed Georgian
attached farm house, fabulously situated in this most
favourable and sought after village location within wonderful
landscape gardens, approximately 1.5 acres.**

- Attached 3 storey Georgian
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- Utility & Cloakroom
- Parking & Garaging
- Fabulous Private Gardens

OFFERS INVITED £895,000



Steppe Farm, Harvington, Worcestershire

**A fantastic opportunity to acquire the most handsome character
property sitting in generous gardens with attractive views
situated in the most popular semi rural location offering an
abundance of character and charm and with historical interest.**

- Grade II Listed Family Home
- 4 Double Bedrooms
- 3 Bathrooms
- Drawing Room & Office
- Sitting & Dining Rooms
- Fitted Family Kitchen
- Garden Room & DETACHED
ANNEXE
- Gardens, Garage,
Car Port

OFFERS INVITED £725,000



Caunsall Road, Caunsall

**A truly wonderful detached Grade II Listed black and white
timbered cottage Circa 1450, offering flexible accommodation
with fabulous views with the potential opportunity for dividing
the property to offer independent annexe accommodation.**

- Detached 5 Bedroom Country
Home
- 4 Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen & Utility Room
- Detached Garage
- In and Out Driveway
- Approximately 7 Acres Land
Gardens and Paddocks
- River Frontage/Fishing Rights
- Early Inspection
Recommended

OFFERS INVITED £675,000



Little Oak, Far Forest, Worcestershire

**Little Oak is a wonderful detached country residence
beautifully situated in this popular and convenient rural
location combining contemporary living with traditional
character features.**

- A 4 Bedroom Country Home
- Bathroom & 2 Shower Rooms
- 3 Reception Rooms & Ground
Floor office
- Generous Fitted Kitchen Diner
- Gardens Approx 1 Acre
- Tennis Court
- Double Garage & Work Shop
- Garden Room/Office EPC = F

OFFERS INVITED £545,000



146 Sutton Park Road, Kidderminster

**A substantial detached, traditional family home with generous
and flexible accommodation over three floors being well situated in one
of the most popular residential locations on the Western outskirts of
Kidderminster and having recently been improved and updated.**

- Detached Family Home
- 5 Double Bedrooms
- Contemporary bathroom
- 4 Reception Rooms
- Ground floor Shower Room
- Modern Fitted Kitchen Diner
- Generous Private Plot
- Detached Double Garage
- EPC = E

OFFERS INVITED £445,000



Phoenix House, Cleobury Road, Bewdley

**An impressive four bedroom Victorian semi-detached
family home having undergone an extensive programme
of improvements creating a beautifully presented and well
proportioned family home full of character well situated**

- Semi-Detached Victorian Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Master bedroom en-suite
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Room
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Workshop and Store
- EPC = E

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10 Fusion 1.4 TDCI Zetec Silver 18k	
11 Fusion 1.4 Zetec Black 14k	
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10 207 1.4 VTI S Est Blue 23k	
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11 308 1.6 HDI Access Silver 15k	

Vauxhall

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62 Corsa 1.2 SE Silver 14k	
60 Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv Grey 27k	
11 Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv Silver 13k	
12 Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv Turbo Blue 5k	
04 Meriva 1.6 Enjoy Silver 28k	
11 Meriva 1.7 CDTi Exc Auto Blue 29k	
11 Meriva 1.7 CDTi Exclusiv Blue 24k	
11 Meriva 1.7 CDTi Exclusiv Grey 11k	
11 Meriva 1.7 CDTi SE Brown 17k	
61 Meriva 1.7 CDTi SE Brown 35k	
11 Zafira 1.6 Exclusiv Red 31k	
11 Zafira 1.7 CDTi Exc Ultra Blue 25k	

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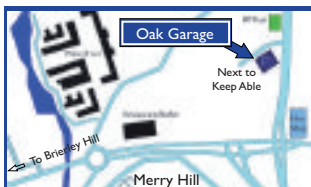
04 Honda Accord 2.4 Exc Tourer Auto Grey	
12 Honda Jazz 1.3 I-Vtec EX Black 7k	
56 Honda Jazz 1.4 SE Red	

Nissan

10 Note 1.4 N-Tec Caffé Latte 10k	
59 Qashqai 1.5 DCI Acenta Black 43k	
11 Qashqai 1.6 Acenta Red 24k	

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12 Proton Satria 1.6 Neo GSX 3dr Orange 18k	
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PROPERTY

Offices being turned into Landmark apartments



THIS is a first look at the new Landmark apartment develop- ment at Brierley Hill

The site of the former Point North office complex is being converted into 181 luxury apartments. An artist's impression of one is pictured above.

Construction will this month with the first job for contractors Colmore Tang being to divide up the vast open spaces into individual apartments.

The total resale value of the properties will be around £18 million, with prices starting at £79,000 for a one-bedroom apartment.

The seven-storey office block will consist of 136 one-bed flats, 37 two-beds and eight studios including six rooftop penthouse apartments.

Developers Seven Capital said they have had a positive response from buyers with more than 50 per cent of the properties sold before construction.



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06/56	FIESTA 1.4 GHIA 5-dr. 56,000 miles, Black	NOW £4500
09/09	AGILA 1.0 CLUB 5-dr. 15,000 miles, Blue	NOW £4500
06/06	TIGRA 1.4 SPORT 2-dr. 57,000 miles, Blue	NOW £4500
08/57	MERIVA 1.6 DESIGN 5-dr. 44,000 miles, Blue	NOW £4500
07/56	ASTRA 1.8 DESIGN 5-dr. 44,000 miles, Silver	NOW £4750
10/10	FIAT PUNTO EVO 1.4 ACTIVE 3-dr. 19,000 miles, Silver	NOW £4950
08/08	FIESTA 1.2 ZETEC CLIMATE 5-dr. 27,000 miles, Black	NOW £5000
09/59	MERIVA 1.4 ACTIVE 5-dr. 25,000 miles, Blue	NOW £5000
08/08	PEUGEOT 207 1.6GT 150 3-dr. 45,000 miles, Black	NOW £5000
08/08	ASTRA 1.4 CLUB 5-dr. 48,000 miles, Silver	NOW £5000
07/07	CORSA 1.4 DESIGN 3-dr. 18,000 miles, Black	NOW £5000
10/60	PEUGEOT 107 1.0 URBAN 5-dr. 28,000 miles, Red	NOW £5250
09/59	RENAULT CLIO EXTREME 3-dr. 15,000 miles, Black	NOW £5250
08/58	ASTRA 1.4 BREEZE 5-dr. 35,000 miles, Blue	NOW £5250

08/58	CORSA 1.7 CDTi DESIGN 3-dr. 40,000 miles, Black	NOW £5750
06/06	MINI ONE 1.6 CONVERTIBLE 2-dr. 42,000 miles, Red	NOW £6000
09/09	FIESTA 1.2 STYLE + 5-dr. 42,000 miles, Red	NOW £6000
13/13	SUZUKI ALTO 1.0 S23 5-dr. 3,000 miles, Red	NOW £6150
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11/61	PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi ACCESS 5-dr. 35,000 miles, Blue	NOW £8000
11/61	PEUGEOT PARTNER 1.6 HDi TEPEE 5-dr. 27,000 miles, Beige	NOW £8500
10/10	MERCEDES BENZ B-CLASS B160 SE 5-dr. 15,000 miles, Black	NOW £9650
10/60	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 ACENTA 5-dr. 26,000 miles, Grey	NOW £10,250
11/61	NISSAN JUKE 1.6 TEKNA 5-dr. 13,000 miles, Black	NOW £11,250

JUST ARRIVED

09/59	CORSA 1.3 CDTi CLUB 3-dr. 64,000 miles, Red	NOW £5000
09/59	FORD KA STYLE PLUS 3-dr. 29,000 miles, Green	NOW £5750
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COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

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13/13	VIVARO 2.0 CDTi SPORTIVE SWB. Sat Nav, 15,000 miles, Silver	NOW £13,250 (+VAT)

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Faster – greener, leaner

By Anthony Martyn

The all-new Mercedes-AMG C 63 Saloon and Estate were revealed this week.

Using the 205 series aluminium and steel chassis structure as its basis, the new C 63 adds an all-new 4.0-litre biturbo engine to give it great performance while unique, three-stage adjustable dampers and a bespoke steering set-up allow it to retain the agility that made the model it replaces the most popular AMG ever created.

The technology applied to the new Mercedes-AMG C 63 is focused on enhancing the performance of the car – to make it as exhilarating as possible yet viable to be used every day. The dynamic engine mounts fitted to the C 63 are a good example.

They reduce unwanted vibration from the engine and gearbox by softening during normal driving conditions – when greater agility is required, they stiffen to improve responses through the speed-sensitive, electromechanical steering and limit unwanted movement in the drivetrain.

Likewise, the C 63 uses a unique suspension set-up. At the front it uses four-link suspension, independent steering knuckles and a wider track to improve stability, while at the rear the multilink system uses independent mounts and an increase in negative camber.

Both are linked to AMG Ride Control system, operating through electronically-controlled three-stage dampers – ranging from comfort through to track settings. Useful for when the latter is engaged, a mechanical locking rear differential for the

standard C 63 and an electronic version for the C 63 S.

As standard the C 63 is fitted with 245/40 R18 (front) and 265/40 R18 (rear) tyres while the 'S' model gains 245/35 R19 (front) and 265/35 R19 (rear) tyres.

At the heart of any AMG is its hand-built engine. The Mercedes-AMG C 63 uses the M177 engine – a sister unit to the M178 found in the new Mercedes-AMG GT – displacing 3,982 cc and equipped with twin turbochargers neatly packaged in the 'V' of the cylinder banks and cooled via a special duct built in the bonnet of the car.

Developing 476 hp in standard form and 510 hp in the C 63 AMG S, it's nearly a third more efficient than the engine it replaces yet, in 'S' form, produces more power and emits less CO₂ – from 192 g/km of CO₂.

Improve

The combination makes it the most efficient performance engine of its kind.

A heavily revised version of the AMG SPEEDSHIFT MCT 7-speed transmission features on the C 63 – now with significantly quicker shift times to improve responses.

In saloon form, the C 63 AMG weighs from 1,715 kg while the Estate weighs from 1,785 kg (including fuel and the driver).

Matching the changes under the skin are extensive changes to the appearance of the car – both outside and in. New front bumpers with deep airdams to feed the intercoolers are joined by the unique AMG grille and a new bonnet with subtle power domes.

Unique, wider front wings (to clear the wider front track) feature a subtle 'V8 biturbo' badges above a set of similarly discreet sill extensions.



Technology applied to the new Mercedes-AMG C 63 is focused on enhancing the performance of the car

The rear bumper is also new, designed to house the new quad exhaust pipes below a small wing mounted on the bootlid and above the tailgate glass on the estate.

Inside, the changes are immediately apparent, with deep, contoured seats set behind a small, unique AMG wheel and re-calibrated AMG dials.

The option of AMG sports seats can be specified along with a range of different leather treatments and trim finishes – from piano black to carbon and aluminium.

Buttons for the AMG Ride Control, optional active AMG performance exhaust system and the three-stage gearbox modes are grouped around the standard Touchpad controller, above which is an AMG badge and IWC timepiece.

The Mercedes-AMG C 63 Saloon and Estate are both available to order in the UK from next month, with prices and specifications set to be announced when ordering opens. First deliveries are expected to take place in Spring 2015.

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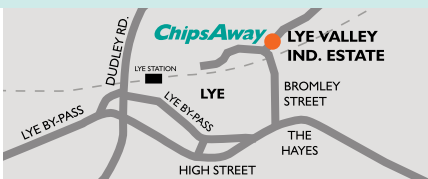
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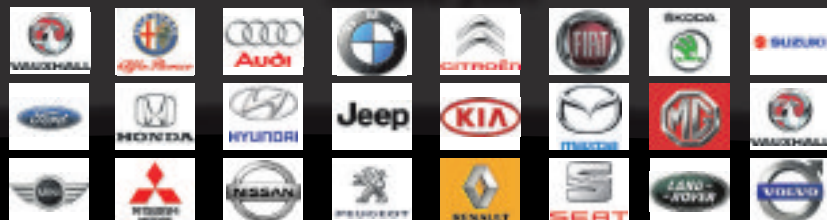


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DRIVETIME



Supporting apprentices

National Tyres' 'next generation' of talented automotive apprentices will once again be steered in the right direction by Bridgestone, who have donated a number of 'tyre toolbags' to help them with their career adventures for a second year.

Bridgestone has again committed to support some of the most talented young technicians in the tyre industry, as part of National Tyres and Autocare's 'Apprentice' scheme.

After hearing about National's NVQ level 2 training courses in 2013, Bridgestone was keen to support the vocational offering by way of a branded hold-all for each learner for another year.

National's group manager and development manager, Graham Atkinson said: "Bridgestone's support means a great deal to us. It really gives our apprentice programme a boost from the moment the technicians arrive with us. The tyre bags contain many of the tools that will be essential for our apprentices including Bridgestone branded merchandise, stationery and product and technical information".

Graham said that National's investment in shaping the future of the industry was already reaping dividends, as many of the apprentices progress into branch management across the UK, with some making the move into operational management roles.

Eighteen apprentices receive vocational training for two years, before qualifying and taking up a permanent position at one of Na-

tional's 225 branches across the UK. Bridgestone's training development manager Mark Fereday said: "We offered our support to National last year with a similar arrangement and were only too keen to do likewise this year when National's new intake was confirmed."

"The bags we have provided are ideal as a starting point for their new recruits as they make their way into the industry. The idea is to give them something that has longevity and can be used for many months and years after they earn their qualifications".

"The feedback from last year was really encouraging. It is lovely to be associated with youngsters like this, who will hopefully go on to forge lasting careers in the industry, with a strong affinity for the Bridgestone brand as a result."

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10 Reg Golf 1.6 TDI £8495 or £42pw	59 Reg Audi A3 1.9 TDI £8495 or £42pw	08 Reg Golf 1.9 TDI £6795 or £33 pw
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religious notices

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.
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7

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8

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metallic, MoT Dec 2014, excellent
condition, £725, 0121 550 4204.

FORD FIESTA Flight, 5dr hatch,
2002, 1.3cc, genuine 46k, green
metallic, MoT Dec 2014, excellent
condition, £725, 0121 550 4204.

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drives superb, recent cam belt,
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paint, central locking, pas,
alloys, stereo, CD.

£995 ono.

07773 240154.

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PEUGEOT 106 W Reg, good condition,
long MoT, recently serviced,
CD, £595. o.n.o. 07972 009230.

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panoramic roof, alloys, very good
condition, 51 plate, 92,000 miles,
MoT, £750. 07593 893718.

PEUGEOT 206LS 52 reg, Lady
owner, 92K, tax Feb 2015, MoT Jun
2015, new brakes and clutch £595
ono 07980 123220 / 01562 630076.

RENAULT CLIO Dynamique 1.2cc,
sunroof, 5 months MoT, 5 months
tax, grey, 03 plate, 72k, £945.
07759 827185 Dudley area.

RENAULT MEGANE
2002, 1.9DCI Dynamique, 11
months tax, MoT March 2015,
73,000 miles, alloy wheels, 6
disc CD changer, good
condition.
£875 ono.
07886 512845.

ROVER 1100CC V Reg, MoT to
February, blue, 56,000 miles, alloy
wheels, £350. 01952 750878.

ROVER 214SI 1.4, full MoT, Taxed,
R Reg, 88k, 5 door, sunroof, PAS,
C/L, CD, £385.
07964 350386.

ROVER 25 1.4, 2003, 60k, 2 owners,
green, 3 door, MoT, recent cambelt
and head gasket change, £550
ono. 07718 222216.

ROVER 25 52 reg, 11 months MoT,
4 new tyres, just serviced, £600
ono. 07903 53669.

TOYOTA CELICA 1.8, petrol, silver,
2001, 84k miles, MoT / taxed, 2 lady
owners, excellent car. £1,500.
01902 562240, 07989 539449.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 55 reg, 3dr,
tax, MoT, CL, PAS, CD, EW,
£1,295.
07790 944729.

VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE 1.2,
77k miles, silver, air con, MoT, tax,
CD, alloys, £1,795 ono.
07759 220269.

VW GOLF, 1996, MoT, reliable,
good runner, £500.
Telephone 07884 225664.

cars over £1500

AUDI A3 2.0TDI 2005, 79k, T & T,
FSH, leather, alloys, beautiful,
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MoT, AC, cruise control, SR,
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01902 733150 / 07791 147577

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late. £2,795 ono. 01384 70643.

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2010, 110,000 miles, auto-
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01902 759409.

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dition £2,500 ono. 07759 422164.

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3-dr, 09, 45k miles, 6 months MoT,
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CLIMATE
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Bargain £3,850.

01299 861377 /

07831 204091.

FORD FOCUS C-Max Ghia, 2.0
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Aug, 2015, FSH, excellent condi-
tion, £3,395 ono. 01384 238809.

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leather, very low 39K, 11 months
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2005, MoT, fsh, 91k, very good con-
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con, part s/h.
£3,900 ono.
07564 256448.

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CDTI
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changed, £1,795.
07815 460696.
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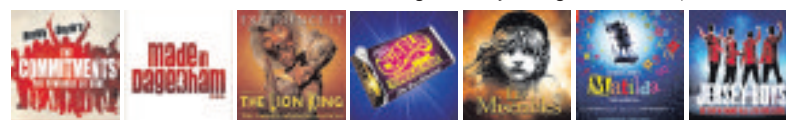
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EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281

LADY 68 ys old seeks caring genuine man for friendship maybe more. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4352870

RETIRE happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

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RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1917 Box No: 408297

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football! Looking for Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to loose, call me. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410765

CARLY, 25yrs, and v naughty seeks man for discreet fun. My job includes trael so anywhere is fine for me. Tel No: 0905 002 1921 Box No: 350727

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy going, broadminded looking for likeminded male with plenty of va va voom, 35-45. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409717

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1925 Box No: 408291

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out, not necessarily looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411049

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LINDY, 43yrs young, married with husband away. Seeks discreet gent any age/area for no strings. Box No: 4459439 Text only

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641

JENNI, sensual lady, 23yrs seeks mature experienced man for no strings, daytime fun. Box No: 4459440 Text only

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543

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SAMANTHA, solvent, sensual business woman, 38yrs, travels a lot and seeks fun on the road. I'm married so please be discreet. Box No: 4459589 Text Only

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039

JASMINE, 22yrs, seeks older gent for daytime meetings as she works a nightshift on the road. Tel No: 4459580 Text Only

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949

FIONA, young 32yrs, seeks uncomplicated fun with chap any age or area, texts only please, I'm nervous on the phone. Box: 4459561 Text Only

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dumb or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTm tall professional for romance dates and hopeful tlr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you can be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes meals, out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking mature male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTm for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, trips, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105

ATTRACTION professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895

SLIM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733

ABI creative free spirited lady enjoys drama, photography, music, WLTm well-spoken patient, independent non-judgmental man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409723

MARGARET OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTm caring male with similar refined tastes. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925

ATTRACTION 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151

PROMOTIONAL ADVERT OF THE WEEK



FELICITY, I'm quite posh and spoilt, 23yrs, Just left uni and looking for some adventures with an older gent. Box No: 4507090 Text only

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101

HI I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, wining, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408669

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTm broadminded male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259

KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTm loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

ANITA very attractive black female, seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no ties. Any age, pls contact me. I'm very lonely. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505

HI I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopefull r. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933

FEEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine calls pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285

CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615

ATTRACTION female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135

LITTLE bit naive and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking friendship and get close to. Pls ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394105

CAROL 38, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853

SUE attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTm someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407921

CURVEY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407603

ANNABELLA board attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun. No TLC required. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449

SUE 40's female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407019

NICKY loving caring gorgeous fun young lady who loves swimming, dancing and lots more, seeking male for text chats and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407459

BLACK female, 45, seeking older gent, 60 plus who knows how to look after a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787

PAM 71, feels younger, lots to give, socialising, theatre, country walks, charity work, seeking male to share interests with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407851

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, snuggles, seeks slim, single male for GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

MANDY divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407469

NICKY 26 fun single female who has been on her own far too long desperately seeking her Prince Charming, must be tactile and possesses the ability to fall in love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407485

MICHELLE lonely singleton, fit/slender, passionate, easy-going seeks male to cook for and generally spoil rotten in exchange for great companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407501

HEATHER larger than life, cuddly built lady, scrubs up pretty well, employed, OHAC, GSOH, looking for good times with willing male, fun times guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407307

TRACY 35yr old blonde petite single mum, WLTm tall male for nights out, text chats and hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407195

LYN slim size 10, 5ft 9ins, attractive with GSOH, OHAC, employed, WLTm genuine guy who is also looking to put some fun back into life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407195

DEBS 37yr old professional, outgoing, bubbly, seeking genuine man for good times in/out and just see where it leads. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407039

BLONDE blue eyed 72yr old widow, GSOH, young at heart, seeks honest, caring gent of similar age for holidays, weekends away and happy times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407113

WHERE have all the genuine men gone? Sue single female who enjoys nights in/out music, seeks sincere male to enjoy good times and get close to. Pls ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407025

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PAULA 38 single mum with OHAC, attractive blue eyes, size 14, seeking well built male with GSOH and honest/reliable disposition, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407029

MEDIUM built female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003

HI I am Linda a lonely petite mature lady looking for nice caring male up to 65yrs who has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406715

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

TALL mature lady, seeks younger, attractive mixed race lady for spoiling and pampering. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411055

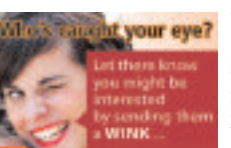
JAMES, 45yrs, solvent caring gent, recently divorced seeks genuine lady to wine and dine. Single mum welcome. Box No: 4459441 Text only

ATTRACTIVE male, seeks 100% adult fun with woman, any age/looks or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411253

PHIL genuine male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461

CARING male 27 seeks caring female age 18-30 for LTR. W.Mids area. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4204130

DEE 49, divorced, handsome, fit, slim, seeks lady, any age for lasting, meaningful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411415



YOUNG attractive 30yr male for 57' looking for fun with lady in and around Birmingham area. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4349370

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335

MALE 52 looking for ltr, white female in my age group I like travel cinema bowling, eating out so text me. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 430565

SLIM attractive Asian male, GSOH, seeks likeminded discreet female for adult friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411305

MALE 67, seeking lady 30-50 for friendship/companionship and occasional days/nights out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411293

MALE 55yrs, black, brown eyes, slim friendly, single likes music, pubs, clubs looking for single slim white woman. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4362687

INTELLIGENT serene Shropshire male, young 60's, playfully assertive, seeking complimentary, responsive, feminine lady, 50-60's who enjoys music, books, the arts and countryside. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411285

MARTIN 6ft, slim, N/S, cattle farmer with GSOH seeks slim honest attractive lady to share life. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4361125

EASY going male 45, likes sports, seeks female for relationship. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411541

JEFF 5ft 9in, dark hair young 61 year old, looking for younger woman for relationship, holidays, etc must like tattoos and have no ties. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4356129

SFT 6ins male, dark hair/eyes, glasses, likes meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411455

PASSIONATE affectionate, caring, trustworthy loyal male n/s many interests looking for someone special - must be slim and busty. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4362337

IAN 47, 5ft 11ins, likes cinema, nights in/out, sports, socialising, GSOH seeking similar female. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411297

MALE WLTm part shaped lady, 50-65. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411109

PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411099

Sutton curse is lifted at Grove

Old Halesowians 29 Sutton Coldfield 10

OLD Hales banished the Voodoo of Sutton in great style at Wassell Grove.

After 22 minutes the home side were awarded a penalty which Chris Hooper converted. Two minutes later Sutton won a line out on the home 15 metre line and drove for a deserved converted try.

Hales again worked back into the game using Nathan Jones at scrum half A driving maul into the Sutton five metre line saw Nigel Burrows score with Hooper converting.

Three minutes later from the kick off Hales stand off Steve Powell received a yellow card for offside. Sutton made the best of the advantage to force another penalty.

Hales worked their way back into the Sutton half. Breese made another telling break through the Sutton defence, made ground and fed the supporting Fitzgerald. In his inimitable style he evaded many tackles and scored a great try. Hooper converted.

In the second half Hooper scored and converted.

On 75 minutes Nathan Jones took the ball over for a well deserved try and bonus point to lead 29 - 10.

Saido gets backing for call-up

ALBION boss Alan Irvine is backing Saido Berahino for an England call-up after the striker netted another two goals to fire the Baggies into the top 10.

Berahino bagged his third and fourth Premier League goals of the season as Irvine's men thrashed Burnley at The Hawthorns 4-0 to claim their third win in a week.

That made him the highest scoring Englishman in the top flight this season.

Irvine said: "He is a talented young player."

"His movement for such a young player is very good. He can finish with both feet and he is a great professional."

"He has been a pleasure to work with."

Baggies are foursome at downing Clarets

Albion 4 Burnley 0

Not since February 2012 had the Baggies won by four clear goals in the Premier League.

And that victory, against Sunderland at The Hawthorns, came just 13 days after another famous victory – the small matter of a 5-1 triumph at Molineux.

Irvine would have doubtless enjoyed his happiest evening as Baggies boss after watching his side take apart Burnley with Saido Berahino again the chief executioner with two goals to cement his position as the club's No.1 striker.

Brown Ideye might have cost the club

Football

£10m and Georgios Samaras might have played in the Champions League. But right now, the boy for Burundi via Birmingham is undroppable at the attacking end of Irvine's team.

As a level-headed, pragmatic coach, Irvine will certainly keep the victory in context. The Clarets looked like a Championship side when the team sheet was printed and nothing they did on the pitch could change that perception.

Yet none of their previous opponents, including Chelsea, had managed to blow away the Clarets with the same ruthless efficiency as Albion. So for that, Irvine and his players deserve all the plaudits that come their way.

A corner from the right by Brunt found its way to the far post, where Craig Dawson leapt above Jason Shackell to head towards goal.

And his effort crossed the line despite a desperate attempt by Kieran Trippier to clear under pressure from Berahino.

The second Albion goal, which arrived in first-half stoppage-time as a near-post cor-

ner from James Morrison was flicked on by Dorrans for Berahino, who nodded in.

The Baggies were 3-0 up 11 minutes into the second half.

A fine through-ball from Dorrans found Berahino, who produced an instinctive first-time finish to beat Heaton with his right foot.

Burnley posed little threat and their misery was completed in the final minute when Albion's pace and incisive attacking proved too much for them.

Georgios Samaras fed fellow substitute Cristian Gamboa, who tore down the right and pulled back for Dorrans to score.

Wolves' rollercoaster against the Royals

Reading 3 Wolves 3

FOR a team that doesn't concede and fails to score enough, Wolves upset the form book on both counts.

And to have gained a point from this encounter was perhaps beyond even the most optimistic Wolves fan at half-time.

To have been involved in a six-goal thriller and come within six minutes of an unlikely win looked the last thing on the cards after an awful first-half performance from Kenny Jackett's side.

But it shows all those cliché-ridden qualities such as resilience and character of the players that they were firstly able to claw themselves back into it, and then to give themselves the chance of winning it to achieve their third successive away draw.

Wolves had a glorious chance to open the scoring after five minutes.

Leon Clarke, who was selected ahead of Liam McAlinden for the lone striker role, put George Saville through on goal.

But, with only the keeper to beat, the midfielder's shot was blocked by Adam Federici, and Evans, who started the first-time passing move, half volleyed the follow-up over. That was as good as it got for Wolves in probably their worst 45 minutes of the season. Lacklustre, they couldn't get going and found themselves trailing on 18 minutes.

The warning bells were sounded five minutes earlier when former Albion striker Simon Cox sent a twisting header just wide from a Jordan Obita free kick. Wolves

Football

were too slow to close down a short corner worked between Jordan Obita and playmaker Oliver Norwood, who crossed to the near post where Michael Hector held off fellow centre-back Richard Stearman far too easily to bullet a header in at Carl Ikeme's near post.

If Wolves lacked the spark in the first half, they certainly burst into life at the start of the second.

Three goals in five breathless minutes followed as the visitors awoke with a start and launched themselves fully into this game. Former Reading man Henry made no mistake, firing high into the roof of the net from six yards out for the 50th-minute equaliser and his first goal of the season.

Four minutes later, Wolves were ahead when Evanspunished an awful attempted clearance by Obika.

The celebrations were still going on when Reading cut them short by hauling themselves level.

Dave Edwards couldn't have done much more when he glanced home Sako's corner. Murray latched on to a loose ball to score.

Glassboys have to do it all over again



Louis Harris puts the Glassboys level direct from a corner kick on 32 minutes

Blaby & Whetstone 1 Stourbridge 1

STOURBRIDGE stuttered against their East Midlands Counties hosts, having to come from behind in Leicestershire to force an FA Cup replay.

It was Blaby who took a surprise fifth-minute lead against Gary Hackett's side.

A long clearance from goalkeeper Ben Jackson found striker Aaron

Preston and he rifled a low shot past Dean Coleman.

The Glassboys thought they had levelled on 28 minutes when Will Richards headed home a Louis Harris corner only for the effort to be chalked off for pushing.

The visitors continued to press and, moments later, Leon Broadhurst and Kayledon Brown combined to set up Jordan Fitzpatrick in front of goal but the midfielder could only

direct his shot straight at the Blaby keeper.

Stourbridge equalised on 32 minutes when Harris' flag-kick swung straight into the net after deceiving keeper Jackson.

The Glassboys continued to see more of the ball than their hosts in the second period but struggled to break down the solid Blaby defence.

Jackson made amends with an excellent save to deny Kayledon Brown.

Misery is brought home for Tipton

Tipton 0 Quorn 4

TIPTON Town's Midland League Premier woes continued apace as high-flying Quorn ran out comfortable winners.

After Tipton were shut-out by visiting keeper Laurie Pearson early on, the Leicester side exerted their authority and never looked back once they took the lead on 24 minutes.

Jordan Wakeling headed home Dominic Brennan's corner to give the third-placed team the lead.

And Tipton, second from bottom in the table, were 2-0 down just before the break when Liam Read beat the offside trap and slotted home.

The visitors were out of site shortly into the second half when Read's penalty made it 3-0 on 49 minutes. And the same player bagged his hat-trick on the hour after waltzing through the defence.

James Thomas came closest to a Tipton consolation when he steered Clayton Peddie's cross just wide.

Come the final 10 minutes and Quorn upped the stakes again, home goalkeeper Ryan Hall making good saves from Sam Hollis and substitute Liam Turner.

Villa battle to hang on to Delph

ASTON Villa are battling to keep hold of Fabian Delph, according to the latest reports.

Arsenal and Everton are among those closely monitoring the England midfielder.

The 24-year-old has been offered a new deal by Villa to prevent him leaving on a free transfer at the end of the season.

But the player has yet to sign the bumper contract with his club – a fact which has not gone unnoticed by the Gunners' manager Arsene Wenger and Roberto Martinez.

Wenger is also chasing Morgan Schneiderlin, as well as Borussia Dortmund's Sven Bender.

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Victory is tipped away from DK

DK 14 Bournville 32

THE first half saw DK impose themselves with a powerful forward display.

Bournville, were forced to concede a penalty, which Kieran Pinches slotted home.

DK were a threat in the middle under the Bournville posts, the ball carried on and out to Donavon Smile who powered to the line. He was brought down just short and the ensuing ruck was dominated by the arriving DK forwards and Matt Perks was able to force his way over. Kieran missed the conversion.

Bournville then got a foothold in the game with an Alex Warner penalty, 8-3.

There were too many poor final passes when the DK outside backs were in space. Which meant their period of dominance was only rewarded by two more Keiran Pinches penalties.

In the second half Bournville right wing Paul Sumner scored two tries in the opening 10 minutes, to take the lead.

DK were still in with a chance until the 26th minute of the half.

Then a chain of events realistically dashed their hopes including a yellow card for Jon Tidesswell.

During the 10 minutes of 14 men, Bournville added a further seven points to give Paul Sumner his hat-trick.

Sako's focus is on Wolves

BAKARY SAKO insists his contractual situation will not distract him from firing Wolves into the Premier League.

The winger, who is in the final 12 months of his three-year deal at Molineux, is yet to open talks with the club over a new contract.

However, the 26-year-old is fully focused on Wolves' Championship charge.

"The contract issue doesn't affect me at all," he said. "It is life in football - every player has something in the background which is there. You just have to stay focused."

"It is about playing every game as well as I can and doing the best I can for the team."

Sako says he is loving life under Kenny Jackett and delighted to be playing in a winning team.

"We have started very well this year."

Revenge is salty as Lions mistakes tell

Stourbridge Lions 7 Old Salteians 36

THE Lions lost their second consecutive game when Old Salts returned to Stourton Park for a thoroughly merited revenge win following their defeat here in the cup.

Throughout, the Old Salts back line were effective running the game.

The Lions made far too many mistakes in possession and were bullied off the ball in the contact area.

Initially there seemed little alarm for the Lions and they took the lead in the first 15 minutes with a try that started on the edge of their own 22.

Rugby

No. 8 Scotty Langdon, the Lions man of the match, made ground upfield from a scrum and offloaded to Danny Cox.

Cox continued the move down the right wing and produced a fine inside pass to scrum-half Trinham who cleverly crossed kicked to the centre of the field on the 22 where Langdon dived on the ball and a fine pass off the back of the ensuing breakdown left Dews with a simple run in under the posts. Wilson's conversion left the score at

7-0. However, the rest of the half belonged to Salts, with a penalty soon after, a try and three goals to leave the game 7-29 at the half.

By 25 minutes the Lions had lost Wilson to the sin-bin for a misjudged late tackle and the Lions were 15 points down.

There was an almost collective loss of focus and control, with missed passes, knocks-on and missed tackles that contributed to an almost insurmountable points gap.

The second half opened with extreme pressure from the Lions, with three inci-

sive moves that should have ended in tries failing with the last pass or a dropped ball.

To their credit the Lions, despite huge pressure from Salts, refused to buckle, continuing to attack at every opportunity.

Eventually, though, a tiring defence was penetrated for the final score, a converted try resulting in a 7-36 scoreline. This defeat was a sobering experience for a young side but one that will be a sound learning experience for them and an early exposure to one of the top teams in this division.

There is still huge promise and there were some sound performances.

Henry rails at defence

JAMES HENRY has told Wolves defenders to kick-start their mean machine after a breakdown at Reading.

The midfielder, who came back to haunt the Royals with a strike in the 3-3 draw at the Madejski Stadium, felt Kenny Jackett's side should have claimed all three points after taking the lead twice in the Championship thriller.

Henry said: "After going 2-1 up and 3-2 up I think we have to be disappointed not to take all three points."

"We are going into every game wanting to win. But defensively we need to look at ourselves because, after going 2-1 up, it was a poor goal to concede so quickly."

"But we will look at that over the next couple of days and correct what we need to for the game on Wednesday (Huddersfield). Reading are a good side so if we can turn the next two home games into six points then we will have done well."

Henry went into the game determined to show the Royals what they were missing after being sold by his boyhood club to Millwall after suffering a cruciate ligament injury.

Runner helps qualification

A WEEK after helping Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers qualify for the National Road Relay championships, M50 veteran Paul Waby was in action again.

Running the Robin Hood marathon and despite getting a bad blister at six miles he finished the race in a respectable time of 2hrs 45min 56 sec.

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PRESSURE POINTS AS SPOILS SHARED

Huddersfield RUFC 10 Stourbridge RFC 10

DESPITE early dominance Stourbridge failed to turn pressure into points and paid the penalty when the hosts grabbed a second half try.

Both sides looked to move the ball wide in the early exchanges, a turnover near halfway setting up a Stour counter that led to an attacking five metre scrum as the defence fumbled a kick ahead.

With his forward colleagues driving their opponents backwards No.8 Drew Harper met little resistance in forcing his way over the line for a short range try converted by outside half Gareth Bown.

Huddersfield responded with a straightforward penalty goal from outside half Joel Hinchliffe when a Stour defender strayed offside in their next attack.

Penalty

Stour drove back downfield, forcing another scrum penalty and driving a maul deep in the hosts' 22 that led to home No.8 Nick Sharpe getting yellow-carded for going off his feet at the tackle.

They opted to scrum again but Harper was adjudged to have knocked on before grounding the ball and referee Kirkpatrick - having already issued a warning - penalised the visitors for backchat.

Huddersfield cleared their lines and adopted a kicking game that succeeded in holding Stour out of their 22 for the duration of the sin-binning.

Jack Lea replaced Jordan Page at hooker but Stour were only able to set up

Rugby

their next attacking platform, as the clock ran down towards half time second row Ben Hughes was hauled down just short, the ball recycled slowly and fullback Jamie Hearn ignored support wide out and knocked on as he opted to go for the line himself.

Shortly after the break tight head prop Mark George was forced off injured.

In the second half neither side were able to achieve line-breaks in attack or establish an attacking platform in their opponents' 22 as kicks failed to find touch and a steady rash of transgressions by both sides were penalised.

Stour were awarded a penalty just inside their own half but failed to find touch and found themselves instead with a lineup just outside their 22.

Huddersfield secured the ball and attacked the short side which was defended by Stour's front row, it was to be the only time the Stour line was threatened but they managed to force Richard Brown over the line with Hinchliffe converting.



Stourbridge's Ben Hughes leaps high to beat the Huddersfield pack

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